

Miners rebel against union call to strike

South Wales miners appeared last night to be in revolt against union leaders' instructions to mount an all-out indefinite strike from Monday. Almost a third of the area's pits rejected the call. Of the 12 pits which had voted, only one backed the executive. The coal board denied union leaders' charges that it had interfered to influence the result.

One South Wales pit in 12 votes 'Yes'

From Tim Jones

Miners' leaders in South Wales appeared last night to be heading for defeat as almost a third of the pits in the area rejected overwhelmingly the executive's instruction to mount an all-out indefinite strike from Monday.

Among 12 pits where votes were known, only one supported the strike call.

As the results from the pit-head meetings began to be known, the union leaders angrily accused the National Coal Board of seeking to influence the result by "gross interference" in their affairs.

That was denied by coal board officials, who said they could not possibly manipulate a ballot held under the union's own rules. Although the final result of the ballot will not be known until tomorrow, it appeared last night that most of the 27,000 miners were rebelling against their leaders.

Before going into a special executive committee yesterday afternoon the union leaders said they would be making a full statement afterwards, but they declined to comment as they came out.

The strike had been called at a special delegate conference on Wednesday to protest against the British Steel Corporation's proposals to cut back steelmaking at Llanwern and Port Talbot. Those plans, the miners said, could lead to 50,000 redundancies in Wales.

After that meeting, Mr Emylv Williams, secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, said he was confident his rank and file would back the strike call.

The proposed action was condemned by Mr Philip Weekes, area director of the National Coal Board, as "a dangerous and irresponsible move."

He said that jobs had never been more threatened than by "this single tragic act."

Thatcher Bill to curb picketing blocked

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor
Mrs Margaret Thatcher tried three days ago to introduce a one-day Bill outlawing secondary picketing, it was learnt authoritatively last night.

The Prime Minister put the proposal to a meeting of the Cabinet yesterday afternoon, but it was blocked by the Government's amendments to the Employment Bill on secondary picketing and other industrial action were being published.

But senior ministers, including Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, successfully resisted the move on the ground that it would do more harm than good. Mrs Thatcher's intention was, I understand, to extend the picketing provisions from the Employment Bill and push them through all committee stages as soon as possible to prevent a recurrence of the kind that closed Hadfields, the Sheffield private steelmaking firm, last week.

The Prime Minister said in the House on February 5 that she had been tempted to take action of that sort, but decided whether such legislation could be got through Parliament during the steel strike.

The disclosure of events at Tuesday's Cabinet committee will strengthen the fears of TUC leaders that there is to follow the Employment Bill when it becomes law. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is known to be firm in his demands that the law should be changed to give the union funds rather than individuals should be at risk for breaches of the new law.

Water workers offered extra 2.2 pc

By Our Labour Staff

Pay negotiations covering 32,000 water and sewerage workers were continuing late last night in London in an attempt to avert a national strike, due to start on Monday.

The employers made an improved offer, taking the total package to 21.4 per cent. The extra 2.2 per cent offered principally covered the backdating of payments for parity with gas and electricity workers to last December.

The fact that there was little "new" money in the offer may lead to difficulties for union leaders who appeared last night to be moving towards acceptance.

Some of the General and Municipal Workers' Union's 21,000 members in the industry who overwhelmingly rejected the 19.2 per cent made at the beginning of this month could decide to take unofficial action.

Tito detente plea
Belgrade, Feb 21.—President Tito, although gravely ill, today sent a plea for detente to President Carter, Mr Brezhnev and other world leaders. The 87-year-old Yugoslav leader has suffered from kidney and heart problems since his leg amputation on January 20.—UPI.

BL may impose new pay and work practices

BL management is expected to tell its workers today that it may be forced to impose on them the deal on pay and work practices they have repeatedly rejected. Without work practices in line with its international competitors, the company will be unable to make the new Mini Metro profitable.

'No' to defence corps

A secret Cabinet committee has ruled out the establishment of a civil defence corps on the lines of the organization disbanded in 1968. Instead it favours a scheme to assist existing voluntary groups such as Civil Aid.

Israeli envoys meet

Israeli envoys to European countries met in London to discuss British moves to associate the Palestine Liberation Organization with discussions on Palestinian autonomy.

Communist U-turn

M Georges Marchais, the French Communist leader, announced his party had set up an inquiry to investigate violations of human rights, but—unlike his grand a few years ago—he defended vigorously Russia's record.

Optimism on steel detected in ministers

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

A gleam of light at the end of the tunnel in the two-month-old steel strike was detected last night by senior ministers. Their hope was apparently based as much in the political turn of industrial events, as in solid bargaining hopes.

But a new flexibility was asserted in liberalising government rigidities over money; the fact that the steel plant closures and redundancies could not go ahead from March 31 as planned by the British Steel Corporation meant, it was said, that there was additional room for manoeuvre over pay.

However, any deal had to remain self-financed by increased productivity, as had been insisted by the Government; but, within the rigidly set cash limit—set at £450m of taxpayers' money by the Government for 1980-81—the two parties might now settle the details.

If this is borne out by events it signals that the Government is, at the least accommodating itself to the realities of a changing situation. Several senior ministers have made it clear in private that the strike cannot be allowed to drift on until the country meets disaster.

The Cabinet yesterday, while not apparently deciding any change of course, discussed the strike in detail. The last night there was little support for ministerial optimism among either BSC or steel union sources. But the Government could point to the fact that the key personalities had been meeting in Brussels all day.

In public, the Government's adamant position remains, as stated by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, that BSC's £450m cash limit cannot be used for pay; it must be confined to redundancy payments, investment, or working capital. But now, so the Ministerial argument runs, the very length of the strike necessitates putting off the proposed March 31 deadline for starting the proposed redundancy programme, so the money will not be needed for redundancy payments—not yet anyway.

It can also be argued that since BSC will not, in that event, be shedding the planned 30,000 jobs by next August, the corporation will be carrying on and for longer than planned, even bigger payroll requirements. It is said, however, that Sir Keith himself is not so rigid a man, and is well aware that the situation is not static, but evolving all the time.

All of this could be good material for Opposition scorn in the no confidence motion debate, now set for next Thursday, and in which both Mrs Thatcher and Mr James Callaghan will be speaking. In fact ministers purport to be relishing the sudden good turn of events, and plan to turn the tables.

They cite as successes, in addition to the XI vote, the ability of the police to keep open the Sheerness steelworks, and the South Wales miners' vote against going on strike against the Government.

Certainly the Prime Minister was in a mood yesterday to distribute prizes. The BL workers got a question time tribute; so did workers, management and police at Sheerness.

Mrs Thatcher exulted: "The demonstrations at Sheerness show very much that workers are interested in today is the right to work, and to go to work unharmed."

And she had a final pat on the back for BL workers; for the first time, in January, they had met their production targets.

Unfortunately, no one asked her about steel, not even Mr Callaghan. But the leader of the Opposition reckons that his constituents' steel trade union strength, the hand of the moderates in Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet.



Lord Carrington (left) meeting Mr Cyrus Vance at the Foreign Office yesterday.

Mr Vance plays down Western differences on Moscow games

By David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent
Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, played down in London last night differences among the Western allies in their response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Asked in particular about the French attitude, he said the French government had not yet arrived at any final position regarding the Moscow Olympic Games.

Mr Vance, who was speaking after an hour and half of talks with Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, said he was in agreement with the concept of making Afghanistan neutral.

"I believe it is a sound and important suggestion," Mr Vance said. He had not had a chance so far, he added, to study the Soviet response to it.

Discussing his talks in Western Europe, Mr Vance said all the countries were agreed on the serious threat represented by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The discussions he had held were in what kind of steps should be taken to meet the threat.

On this he admitted that there were differences of opinion, as far as specific actions were concerned and how they should be implemented.

On the Moscow games, Mr Vance did not commit himself beyond noting that neither France nor West Germany had yet reached a final conclusion.

Last night, Mr Vance was the guest of Lord Carrington at a working dinner, at which the Western policy on Afghanistan and the Olympic Games

in particular was discussed further. The Secretary of State returns to Washington this morning.

Lord Carrington will pay a visit to Bonn next Tuesday for further discussions on the present crisis, it was announced last night.

Boyott opposed: The Labour Party officially announced yesterday its opposition to an Olympic boycott. Mr Denis Howell, shadow Minister for Sport, warned British sporting bodies in a letter that a boycott of the Moscow games would destroy the Olympic movement.

There is a clear distinction between the association of sport and politics on the one hand and actually using sport as a political weapon, his letter said.

Leading article, page 15

Mr Kosygin reappears for election rally

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 21

Mr Alexei Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, today celebrated his 76th birthday by making his first public appearance for four months when he addressed an election rally in Moscow. In mid October he had what Soviet sources said was a serious heart attack, and his daughter later said he was gravely ill.

Making a 45-minute speech in the ornate Bolshoi Theatre to his Moscow constituents, who on Sunday will elect him for a further five years as a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Republic, Mr Kosygin looked tanned and rested, though considerably thinner.

No word was said about his long absence, but he was publicly wished good health and success and greeted with warm applause, which he acknowledged with a rare and fleeting smile.

The Soviet Prime Minister, with overall responsibility for the ailing economy, has been sorely missed by the leadership, and during his absence, his deputy, Mr Nikolai Tikhonchuk, has been in charge of the Politburo and entrusted with much of the day-to-day running of the Government.

Mr Kosygin's long experience is particularly needed as the economy enters a critical phase of low growth and falling productivity, but his previous prodigious appetite for work may

be considerably curbed in future for health reasons.

He told his audience that Soviet production potential had grown a lot during the five-year plan, which ends in December. But there were many key problems still to be overcome.

Turning to Soviet foreign policy, Mr Kosygin said the world was living through a tense moment in international relations, which he attributed to the "threatening actions and dangerous trends" in the policy of the West.

Referring especially to the West's cool response to Mr Brezhnev's offer in October to withdraw troops from East Germany—which Soviet analysts said privately humiliated and infuriated the Politburo and was a key factor in determining the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan—Mr Kosygin said the West's military build-up and the American postponement of the Salt Treaty stemmed from a "defiant policy line intended to undermine detente."

He said the Soviet Union would draw the necessary conclusions and would devote "unflinching attention to questions of the country's defence capacity." And he gave a warning that the Russians would not allow the balance of forces in the world to be changed to their disadvantage.

He attacked American policy as high-handed, hegemonic and selfish, but said the Russians were still committed to detente and would pursue a policy of peace and friendship



Robert Fisk: Highest tradition of reporting.

Award for 'Times' reporter

By a Staff Reporter

Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent of The Times, is today named International Reporter of the Year in the 1979 British Press Awards for his dispatches from Iran in the wake of the revolution which removed the Shah.

The citation says his reports were in the highest tradition of international reporting. The judges add: "His ability to convey the flavour of life in the country he is covering, allied with a deep insight into political and economic problems, presents the reader with an illuminating picture which is rarely equalled."

The award is based on his work from November 13, when The Times resumed publication after almost 12 months' stoppage, until the end of the year. Since then he has been sending reports from Afghanistan. He is one of the few Western journalists who escaped expulsion.

He is now returning to Beirut to resume coverage of Middle East affairs which he began in 1976. Before that he was in Belfast at the height of the IRA troubles and was named Reporter of the Year by Granada Television in 1975 for his graphic reporting.

Mr Fisk is 33 and joined The Times nine years ago yesterday.

Other awards, page 5

Britain to protest to EEC over butter for Russia

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent
The British Government will inform the European Commission in Brussels of its disgust at the decision taken this week to resume sales of subsidized butter to the Soviet Union, Mrs Thatcher told the Commons yesterday.

Making clear her dismay at the decision, the Prime Minister described it as "disgraceful".

Mr Patrick Cormack (C, Staffordshire South-West) urged Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Leader of the House, to arrange a debate on the issue.

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Government cuts back on house building and increases rents

By Michael Hatfield

A cut in house-building and a further increase in rents were announced yesterday by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, as part of the Government's policy to reduce public expenditure.

Housing capital allocations for 1980-81 in real terms will be about £340m, or 21 per cent lower, than the forecast outturn for 1979-80. The rent increase guidelines, announced in November at £1.50 a week on average rents of about £6.10, have been revised by 30p to £1.80 a week, an increase of more than 20 per cent.

Mr Heseltine, in making the announcement in the Commons, also introduced a change of policy by stating that the housing allocation to each authority from April, 1980, would be in a single block, giving local authorities much greater ability to decide their priorities.

He had done this to encourage local authorities to make the most effective use of resources to meet local needs, he said.

Challenged by Mr Roy Hattersley, Opposition spokesman for the environment, to say if this meant that housing starts could be larger or smaller than the previous year, Mr Heseltine replied: "The one thing that is for sure is that there is no reason to suggest that the rate of starts is likely to decrease faster than it has been doing as a trend over recent years."

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, announced at the same time that the allocations for Scotland amounted to £293.3m at forecast outturn prices, a 20 per cent reduction compared with 1979-80.

The new allocations were announced in advance of the Government's overall expenditure plans for 1980-81, to be published next month in a White Paper, to allow local authorities, the Housing Corporation and the New Towns to settle their programmes.

Housing investment for local authorities in 1980-81 will be allocated at £2.199m—a reduction of £499m in 1979 survey terms.

New Town building for rent programme will be £151m. The Housing Corporation will be allocated £420m for the work of housing associations, a reduction of £25m, again in 1979 survey terms.

New Town building for rent programme £151m, a reduction of £14m in 1979 survey terms.

Mr Heseltine said that there was a range of ways to promote low-cost ownership: selling council houses; securing land release for builders; encouraging starter homes; low-cost building for sale, especially for private associations; a reduction of £25m, again in 1979 survey terms.

Unless the Government can quickly reallocate resources for the new repairs and improvement grant, Mr Ian McCallum, chairman of the Association of District Councils, said last night.

"Unless the Government can quickly reallocate resources for the new repairs and improvement grant, Mr Ian McCallum, chairman of the Association of District Councils, said last night.

Charges against Mr Garfield Todd, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, of allegedly assisting guerrillas and failing to report their presence have been dropped, it was announced today.

In a statement, Mr B. J. Treacy, the Attorney-General, said he had decided against criminal proceedings after receiving from Mr Todd an explanation about his actions before his arrest.

The lifting of charges against Mr Todd brings to an end one of the more bizarre incidents during the British administration of Rhodesia.

He was arrested almost two weeks ago after rising with the police in Shabani, where he lives, a matter involving the arrest of the headmaster of a school of which Mr Todd is a governor.

The police opposed bail and it was only as a result of intervention by Lord Soames, the Governor of Southern Rhodesia, that Mr Todd was eventually released from Shabani prison where he was held for several hours, and granted bail.

In another curious incident involving the police in Shabani, Mr Justin Nyoka, spokesman for Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu

(PF) party was arrested today at his home in Salisbury and charged with using subversive language during a party rally in Shabani last month.

Mr Nyoka denied that he had visited Shabani for 20 years and later today police headquarters said the charge was being withdrawn.

Police said Mr Nyoka's arrest was a question of mistaken identity. But Mr Nyoka said it was part of a deliberate campaign by the authorities to obstruct Zanu (PF) before next week's election. He alleged that between 3,500 and 5,000 Zanu (PF) officials and supporters had been arrested in recent weeks.

Among those held—also in Shabani—are three Zanu (PF) election candidates in the midlands province. They were arrested last week on charges similar to those laid before Mr Todd.

Bail was refused by the magistrate in Shabani. Today, however, the High Court overruled the magistrate and ordered them to be released next Saturday on bail of \$81,500 (about £1,000) each.

Mr Eddison Zvogbo, Zanu (PF)'s election director, accused Lord Soames today of

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HOME NEWS

BL expected to tell unions today that it may be forced to impose rejected pay deal

From Clifford Webb
Birmingham

The BL management is expected to give a warning to the unions today that after four months of unsuccessful talks it may be forced to impose the deal on pay and new working practices which the unions have repeatedly rejected.

The delay in acceptance now threatens to disrupt the October launching of the £280m Mini Metro, which Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, insists is crucial to the company's survival.

Industrial observers believe that the company must begin to man the Metro assembly lines at Longbridge before April. But without agreement on the introduction of working practices in line with those of its international competitors, BL cannot achieve the manning levels or work standards necessary to make the car profitable.

The unions are not due to meet again until next Friday. Faced by management's determined stand, they will probably follow the recent practice and call a meeting of all senior shop stewards. Such a further delay will take them well into its deadline for manning the Metro lines.

Cars must be in production before the long summer closure so that sufficient numbers will be available to supply the motor industry with early models and the trade with several thousand before the launching date.

Assembling any new car always produces innumerable early difficulties. Combining a new car with untried production facilities is the motor industry's eternal nightmare.

Add to that the fact that the Metro bodybuilding line contains more robots and other automated machinery than any other car plant in Britain and it is apparent why BL management may now be forced to take its biggest gamble.

On February 16 the unions on the BL joint negotiating committee gave the company a fortnight to improve its offer of a 5 per cent basic pay increase, with 10 per cent for skilled workers and an incentive scheme offering up to £15 a week more.

In return the company is demanding an end to demarcation boundaries and restrictive practices, full mobility of labour and access at all times for industrial engineers, or time and motion study experts.

But, unusually after such long negotiations, the union did not couple the fortnight's grace with a strike ultimatum. Indeed, it is clear from statements made by union negotiators that they are well aware of a lack of widespread support on the shop floor for a strike.

Without their traditional answer to management intransigence the unions have had to fall back on delaying tactics aimed at forcing the company to take the initiative. In that way they hope their members will be prodded into direct action which the unions can

claim was forced upon them while they were still at the negotiating table.

It is being suggested that Wednesday's overwhelming rejection of Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed convenor, has strengthened Sir Michael Edwards's determination to impose the pay deal. Indeed, union speakers at the mass meeting which rejected strike action gave a warning that that would happen.

After the meeting they quoted extracts from Sir Michael's speech to Birmingham industrialists as further evidence that the company was planning to impose the deal.

He said: "The BL board and management has not bluffed and will not bluff. We will tell the truth at every point."

If I have one plea to make to the unions it is that they should believe the scale, the complexity and the nature of BL's problems and that they should never say "I thought the wages bluffing".

Sir Michael said the pay talks had dragged on far too long. BL did not have the money to increase its offer, and without changes in working practices to get the company somewhere near its European competitors it could not afford to stay in business.

But the part of his speech that was worrying union leaders last night was even more to the point: "It is management's duty to take the lead in this area. Doing it the other way has not worked."

Full debate demanded on immigration rules

By Our Political Correspondent

Labour and Liberal MPs are pressing the Government to allow a full day's debate in the Commons on the revised immigration rules, published on Wednesday. They say that the usual hour and a half allowed on a motion to negative orders containing such regulations is insufficient.

In the Commons yesterday Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the House, rejected the pleas of Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, and Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, on the argument that the House had already spent a full day debating the draft regulations.

When MPs shouted: "These rules are different", Mr St John-Stevas replied: "Indeed

they are different, in the sense that they have been altered to take account of the views expressed in the House in the earlier debate, therefore it is not reasonable to ask for another full day."

Mr Michael Rook, Labour MP for Leeds South, and the former Home Secretary, pointed out that the new Select Committee on Home Affairs had compared the new rules with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights. Their report, to be published soon, should be debated at the same time as the rules.

That was justification for reserving a full day for the debate, he said, but Mr St John-Stevas was still not forthcoming.

Liberals in both the Lords and Commons have tabled motions to negative the rules.

Labour pledge to take back oil assets sold by Tories

By Our Political Staff

Mr James Callaghan, leader of the Opposition, pledged last night that a future Labour government would bring back under public control any British National Oil Corporation assets sold to the private sector.

If the present Government went ahead with its plan, then the next Labour government would make sure the nation did not suffer, he said in a message to a Fabian Society conference on energy to be held in London this weekend.

"We shall bring back these precious assets into the

national treasury", he said.

Mr Callaghan said that if the Government sold 25 to 30 per cent of the corporation it would raise a one-off sum of £500m to £600m. But it would be giving away revenues from now until the oil ran dry.

The Government would put at risk the flow of profits to the nation over the next 20 or 25 years. The nation would lose heavily, he said.

"I warn the Government and those who think they may benefit from this adventure that the Labour Party will oppose it all the way."

Development at Stansted essential, Mr Nott says

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday told the Commons that whatever the results of the various inquiries into providing extra airport capacity, the Government would not be moved from its decision to develop Stansted as the only means of handling the increasing number of passengers expected to be travelling through Britain by the 1990s.

The latest forecast is that by 1990 passengers using the London area airports will have increased from 69 million and 81 million.

Mr Nott told the House, when he opened the debate on the Government's airport policy, that if demand was to be limited, quite apart from the congestion chaos and the need to build up existing airports, yet another impediment would be placed in the path of the country's economic recovery.

Having accepted that expansion must take place in the London area, Mr Nott added that while recognising the controversial nature of the decision to develop Stansted, the Government saw no reason for deviating from that policy.

Although assuring the House that no decision would be reached until the recommendations of the inspector at the public inquiry were announced, Mr Nott said Stansted had really chosen itself.

However hard he had fought in his own mind against building around the existing runway so as to avoid changing this attractive part of rural Essex, there seemed no other realistic option.

While agreeing that a prime objective would be to shift as much as possible of the burden of the increased air traffic away from the London area, he pointed out that to accommodate all further growth in the region would mean building the equivalent of two Birmingham airports every year.

Ruling out the option of a second runway at Gatwick, Mr Nott said that would involve destroying the village of Chislehurst and other smaller settlements and take about 2,000 acres of agricultural land. The cost of construction would be high, environmental losses serious, and it would not provide a flexible solution if demand continued to grow.

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Steel unions to offer 'compromise' package

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Union leaders of 100,000 striking steel workers will put a new peace initiative to the British Steel Corporation today.

Negotiators for the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and the National Union of Blast-furnacemen are being alerted to the prospect of an early resumption of full-scale wage talks if the management responds positively to the latest pay and productivity proposals.

ISTC leaders last night brought down a curtain of secrecy over the contents of the document, said to be a compromise between the hard-line policies hitherto pursued by both sides, admitting only that it was intended "to bring the corporation into viability".

The paper is thought to offer the corporation multi-union bargaining on productivity at plant level, a concession it has been seeking for some years. But the paper stops far short of giving the management freedom to make big manning reductions without union consent in the works.

Today's talks are the first serious attempt to restart negotiations since the chaotic failure of the meeting two weeks ago, when union leaders accused the corporation of misleading them over the value of their "final" pay offer of 14.4 per cent.

ISTC officials last night refused to confirm or deny that the rise demanded for their draft agreement is 20 per cent, payable in stages rather than across the board from January 1.

A demand of that sort would be rejected out of hand by British Steel, it is said, but cannot pay more than the 14.4 per cent tied to job losses, changed working practices and modification of the industry's guaranteed working week, re-employment by negotiators for about 50,000 grade 4 and 5 workers but rejected by the rank and file.

Mr Sirs is encouraged by Brussels meeting

From Donald Macintyre
Brussels, Feb 21

The European Commission told British union leaders in Brussels tonight that it intended to complete within about a month an investigation of the British Steel Corporation's restructuring plans.

The union team, led by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, left encouraged by their belief that they had spurred the commission into a critical examination of whether British Steel's plans fit in with the Community's restructuring scheme for the industry.

Viscount Etienne Davignon, the Industry Commissioner, and Mr Heek Vandenberg, the Social Affairs Commissioner, told the union leaders that they were disappointed by a lack of information from the Corporation and the British Government on British Steel's restructuring plan, which will mean the loss of 52,000 jobs by August.

The commission envisaged a similar consultation with British Steel, the unions and the Government and saw yesterday's meeting as the first stage.

Sheerness pickets go home early but other plans are afoot

From Nicholas Timmins
Sheerness

It was the day of the dust-curtain and some disillusion on the picket line in Sheerness yesterday as a lonely group of twenty pickets from Rotherham were all that was left of Wednesday's mass demonstration by steelworkers and miners.

One weary picket described the show of strength by about 2,000 on Wednesday as a total disaster: a cloud of orange smoke hung over the steel plant, which continued to churn out its 1,800 tonnes a day. Employees with a dump truck cleared the sandwich bags, orange peel and litter that was all there was to be seen of Wednesday's siege.

Plans to try to close the plant by other means were, however, already afoot.

Mr Brian Connolly, strike coordinator for the South-east, refused to comment on suggestions by pickets that agreement had been reached with Transport and General Workers' Union officials that drivers supplying oxygen and oil to the plant would not cross the picket line if it was manned round the clock.

Without oxygen the plant's two electric arc furnaces could not operate.

But a planned round-the-clock picket has yet to operate effectively. Wednesday night's shift of Scunthorpe pickets, who found the windows of one of their hired vans smashed, left in the early hours.

Yesterday pickets did not arrive until 9.30 am, apprehensive that they might face trouble from townspeople outraged at their presence. But the crowd watching the pickets was smaller than usual, and even the steelworkers' wives, who have counter-picketed regularly, took the day off. By 3 pm the pickets, who had chatted amicably with police, had left.

Mr Connolly said that union lawyers would be looking at evidence being gathered to support allegations that the police used excessive force against some pickets on Wednesday. It was alleged that four officers had arrested one picket in "a most unreasonable way" and "given him a kicking and beating".

Eight of the 21 arrested on Wednesday were miners, and seven of those arrested have been fined sums varying from £25 to £75. The rest have been bailed on condition that they do not return to the island. Most of the charges are of obstruction or threatening behaviour.

Ronald Edwards, writer from Sheffield, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation members at private steel firms in the Sheffield and Rotherham areas will this weekend take decisions whether to resume work in defiance of the executive's strike call.

It is understood that men at Hatfield and Firth Brown's, two of Sheffield's biggest private companies, are in favour of a resumption provided they can obtain support from other unions with men employed at their works.

The critical position of Hatfield and its 2,800 employees was spelt out yesterday to full-time officials of the unions in the steel confederation and in shop stewards of the confederation at the plant. Mr Derek Norton, chairman of the company, last night sent letters to the homes of workers outlining the company's position.

Our Monthly Tydfil Correspondent writes: The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation said yesterday that every other industry in the United Kingdom was dependent on steel, and the security of the country was based on maintaining a steel industry that did not have to rely on Germany, Russia or Japan to survive.



Mr William Sirs, the steel union leader, with Mr Len Murray (right), addressing an EEC meeting on steel industry difficulties in Brussels

Survival at risk if union law fails, Mr Prior says

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, is to explain his proposals on industrial relations to the Scottish TUC at a meeting today.

At a press conference in Glasgow last night he said he favoured a step-by-step approach by the Government. There had to be a better way than the one Britain had followed for twenty years, he said, making clear that any tough legislation on the trade unions lay some years ahead.

In making his proposals, Mr Prior said, he had been careful not to seek legislation that might have appeared on the face of it to be justified but would have been unlikely to work in practice.

"Perhaps we have been too ambitious in past legislation and as a result it has all collapsed", Mr Prior said.

"What I am keen to do is to get something this time that having won public acceptance is able to work."

"I do not believe that democracy itself, and certainly not our success and prosperity as

a major industrial power, can survive readily another government falling in industrial relations."

The present proposals were designed to deal with specific difficulties such as secondary picketing and other forms of secondary action, and some aspects of the closed shop. They were not a comprehensive framework such as the Industrial Relations Act or Mrs Barbara Castle's proposals were meant to be.

Mr Prior said that in the longer term he would like to see enforceable contracts with work forces for two to three years at a time. In the motor industry such agreements would mean higher wages in return for definite runs of production.

For their part, the unions would be able to take far rougher action against management when it did not function as it should. Mr Prior denied that the clarification of the law had led to an intensification of picketing or that the proposed measures had been caused by the present steel dispute.

"I am not legislating for one dispute", he said. "I am legislating for the next 20 years."

'Sus law' is not aimed at blacks, MPs told

By Ian Bradley

It is quite wrong to suggest that the so-called 'sus law' is a police power recently restricted to harass the black community, a parliamentary committee was told yesterday in written evidence presented by Sir David McNee, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Sir David's evidence was given to the race relations and immigration subcommittee of the House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs, which is inquiring into the operation of the Vagrancy Act, 1926.

Section IV of the Act creates an offence of "intent to commit an arrestable offence" and gives the police power to arrest suspected persons or request their lodging in public places with intent to commit crimes.

Sir David said that the Metropolitan Police have not used the so-called 'sus law' power for the past 10 years, and do not object to that part being removed.

The number of people prosecuted for the suspected persons offence in recent years was about the same as in the middle 1950s, he said. In 1979, 1,894 people were arrested, of whom 767 (40 per cent) were coloured.

The campaign against the "sus law" has increased the difficulties the police face in attempting to establish good relations with black youth, he said.

Much of the criticism of section IV arose from a misunderstanding of the basic elements necessary to prove the offence, which required positive evidence of criminal intent in the form of a series of overt suspicious acts. The problems of opportunistic street crime which it was designed to combat still remained.

Sir Philip Knights, Chief Constable of the West Midlands, told the committee that section IV was extremely valuable in cases of shoplifting, thefts of and from motor vehicles, and thefts from the person.

Sir Philip said that of 115 people arrested under section IV in 1979, only 14 were of West Indian or Asian origin.

Lords will hear case of boy who lost £100,000

The House of Lords agreed yesterday to consider the case of Stuart Whitehouse, aged 10, whose £100,000 High Court damages award for criminal injuries he suffered at birth was taken away by the Court of Appeal last December.

The boy, suing through his mother, Mrs Eileen Whitehouse, of Rowley Green Lane, Alverstoke, Hereford, and Worcester, was granted leave to appeal by Lord Diplock, Lord Salmon and Lord Scarman.

The Court of Appeal had decided, by a two-to-one majority, that there had been no negligence by Mr Joseph Jordan, a consultant obstetrician, who delivered the boy by Caesarean section after trial use of forceps at Birmingham Maternity Hospital in January, 1970.

It allowed an appeal by Mr Jordan, aged 40, and Birmingham Area Health Authority, cancelling a £100,000 damages award made by a High Court judge.

Law report, page 11.

McNee protest at BBC report on corruption

Sir David McNee, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, yesterday protested at a report on alleged police corruption that was to be screened on last night's Newsnight programme.

The item concerns Operation Community, and Sir David said it showed "anonymous criminals" making allegations of corrupt behaviour against unnamed police officers.

The BBC responded that the inquiry was "a proper area of public and journalistic concern." There was no suggestion that more than a few police officers "are anything but conscientious and honest."

Tory leaders no hypocrites, Mr Heffer says

By Our Political Correspondent

Correspondent Margaret Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph were rightly attacked for many things, but unlike some senior members of the Cabinet they could not be attacked for hypocrisy, Mr Eric Heffer, the left-wing Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton, and a member of the party executive, told a church audience.

"They fanatically believe in what they are doing", he said. "The clash today in the Tory Government is basically between the progressive and reactionary wings, between the political heirs of Harold Macmillan and Rab Butler on the one side, and those of the Salisbury and the Balfours."

"The Tory party today is not led from its centre-left but from its right wing. For that reason the Thatcher-Joseph leadership reflects the legacy they inherited from Disraeli Baldwin and Macmillan, believing as they do that the Tory 'pinks' have introduced what in office is a paucity of copy of Labour's socialist policies."

Taking part in a series of Lent Lectures at St Botolph's Church, Aldgate, London, entitled "Christian perspectives on Thatcherism", Mr Heffer said that Christianity was often referred to in Conservative speeches as if it were the sole preserve of the Tories.

Manifesto stand criticized

By Our Political Staff

The insistence of Labour's National Executive Committee on taking over responsibility for drafting the party manifesto was criticized last night by Mr Neville Sandelson, Labour MP for Hillingdon, Hayes and Uxbridge.

Mr Sandelson, addressing the Brunel University Labour Club, said the party's programme must be acceptable to all sections of the party and agreed by all. If it was not, many Labour MPs would react accordingly.

Stepfather denies murdering girl of four

Mandy Granger, aged four, who was in hospital with multiple injuries, made a Plasticine figure and then poked holes all over it, the High Court in Glasgow was told yesterday. When asked what the holes were, she replied: "That's its bruises."

Two months later the girl died. Robert Granger, aged 19, the girl's stepfather, is charged with her murder.

The court was also told of another period the girl spent

in hospital with injuries, including multiple bruising and burn caused by an electric iron. Social workers believed the injuries were not accidental so when she was discharged, she and her parents were visited at their home in Glasgow Road, Easterhouse, Glasgow, four times in three weeks. Five days after the last visit she was dead.

The court was told that the girl's death was due to peritonitis after a violent blow to the

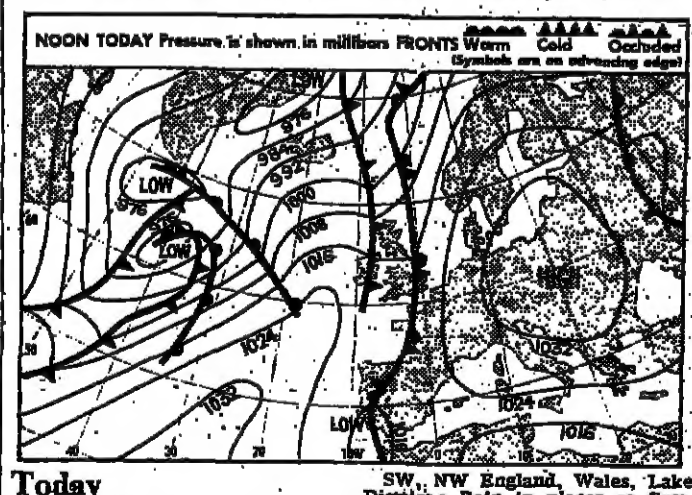
stomach. There was said to be faded bruising and abrasions on her body when she died.

Mr Granger denies repeatedly assaulting the girl between October 30 and November 3 last year, and murdering her. He also denies burning her with an electric iron and immersing her in a cold bath.

He has lodged a special defence, blaming the girl's death, aged 23, for the alleged offences.

The trial continues today.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 7.2 am. Sun sets: 5.27 pm.
Moon rises: 12.16 am. Moon sets: 10.21 am.
First quarter: Tomorrow.
Lighting up: 5.57 pm to 6.30 am.
High water: London Bridge, 5.54 am, 7.00 pm; 6.29 pm, 6.58 am. Ayr, 6.29 am, 7.00 pm; 6.29 am, 6.58 am. Dover, 6.29 am, 6.58 am. 6.29 am, 6.58 am. Liverpool, 6.29 am, 6.58 am. 6.29 am, 6.58 am. 6.29 am, 6.58 am.
Troughs of low pressure will move slowly E across the British Isles.
Forecasts for 5 am to midnight:
London, SE: England, East Angles: Cloudy, rain at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 10°C (50°F).
Central S, E England, E Midlands: Cloudy; rain at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 10°C (50°F).
W Midlands, Central N, NE England: Rain and hail fog at first; brighter and mainly dry at last; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
S. Scotland, S. North Sea: Rain; sun at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
NE Scotland, Orkney: Rain at times; sun at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
Shetland: Sun at times; rain at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
S. Ireland: Rain at times; sun at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
N. Ireland: Rain at times; sun at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
S. France: Rain at times; sun at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
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Spain: Rain at times; sun at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
Italy: Rain at times; sun at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
Greece: Rain at times; sun at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
Turkey: Rain at times; sun at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
Middle East: Rain at times; sun at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
Africa: Rain at times; sun at times; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
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A message prepared by the Press and Publications Department, Ministry of Information, State of Qatar on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the accession of HH the Emir, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani

The Creation of Modern Qatar

Wise leadership makes provision for a secure future

Today Qatar celebrates the eighth anniversary of the accession of Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani as Emir. The nation looks back with justifiable pride at the remarkable progress that has been achieved during this period and with admiration at the way in which Sheikh Khalifa has identified and tackled the many problems inherent in such rapid and comprehensive development.

On the 22 February 1972, HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani acceded to the Emirate of Qatar, the small oil state in the heart of the Arabian Gulf. His accession came as no surprise, since in fact Sheikh Khalifa had been running the affairs of state for more than a decade as Crown Prince and Chief Executive. But when the consensus of opinion of leaders of the community gave their support to the new Emir, they were in fact endorsing a programme of development and modernization which has proved one of the most interesting models of transition in the oil rich Gulf.

As a young boy Sheikh Khalifa had witnessed the decline of a traditional way of life. Qatar had long been famous for its pearl diving industry—the only major source of income in an inhospitable desert land. But the world economic crisis of the thirties coupled with Japanese ingenuity in developing the cultured pearl saw a thriving industry wither and die almost overnight. It was a classic example of the danger of depending on one source of income. The lesson was not lost on the young Sheikh in later years.

Thus it was that a young man from a powerful branch of the ruling family of Qatar from an early age began to dream of the potential future of the country, especially as the oil began to flow in 1949.

Even under the unfavourable terms granted by the oil companies in the early days of Qatar's oil industry, the discovery of massive quantities of this raw energy source was a blessing to a nation searching for a future. But oil brought problems in its wake. For a small country with a small population, which for over a century had been ignored by the great powers who only wanted to protect their trading fleets, the sudden influx of foreigners and twentieth century technology threatened the very existence and identity of the local people.

The question was, could the people of Qatar respond to the challenge of a new age, or would they remain spectators on the sidelines as powerful external forces plundered their natural wealth. To face the challenge the Qatari nation in some way had to condense a process of development which had taken European countries two centuries of industrial and technological revolution into a matter of decades. A daunting and seemingly hopeless task.

This is the task which Sheikh Khalifa took upon himself, and it is a mark of his success as politician and statesman that his country has progressed a long way down the road of that development. But of course, no one man can develop a nation on his own. Development requires that the people as a whole believe in their future and make their full contribution—a point that Sheikh Khalifa made when he addressed the nation on assuming the position of Emir:

"This country's renaissance in all fields has been the product of co-operation between the State and the people, who have always sought to build their country on sound bases, free their energies of all restrictions and take their well-deserved place among other nations and peoples."

All the people of Qatar required in order to march towards the future was a leader, and this they found in Sheikh Khalifa, as an unassuming ruler, and a tireless worker determined to see his dream of a developed state become reality.

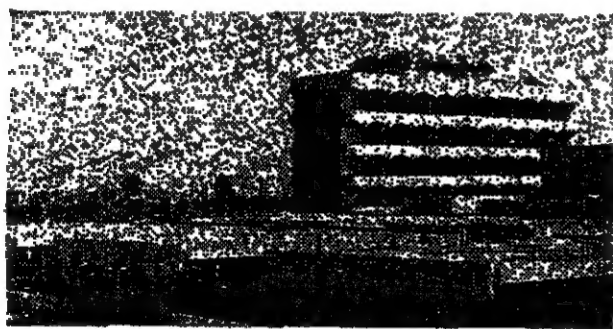
The practical application began in 1956, when the ruler-to-be took on the post of the first ever Minister of Education in Qatar—indeed the first ever minister. Even at an early age he appreciated that education is the key to the future. If Qatar was to regain its independence and control its own resources and hence



Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar

its future, it must develop trained manpower able to deal with every aspect of the State and its economy. As Minister of Education, Sheikh Khalifa introduced free schooling into Qatar for the first time—there was no formal education previously.

In order to protect the identity of Qatar against the encroachments



Qatar's new radio station will provide improved facilities for the existing comprehensive services in Arabic and English

of westernism, Sheikh Khalifa was keen to employ Arab teachers, Egyptians, Palestinians, Bahrainis—people who would understand the religious and cultural heritage of Qatar and offer education without destroying the basis of society. It was a policy which as Emir, Sheikh Khalifa has continued to adopt in every aspect of the State as far as possible.

It was also through the educational system that Sheikh Khalifa tried with some success to convince young Qataris that they had a responsibility to their country and its future—that it was more important to study technical and economic subjects than literary matters, if Qatar was to develop. But at the same time religious studies formed an important part of the curriculum. The Islamic faith was the immunization against the decadence which by the sixties was afflicting western industrial societies: "I am not afraid of the impact of industrialization on our own Arab society provided we are not careless about our deep-rooted customs and traditions... we have a rare opportunity to bypass mistakes committed by other societies. Our Islamic way of life allows for a contemporary way of living which is not incongruent with our spirit and traditional ways. The door is open for thinking up new answers for new problems while keeping the old spirit."

The problems which required answers were—how to make sure that Qatar and its people benefited



The oil drilling platform 'Dana' owned by the Qatar General Petroleum Corporation



Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar

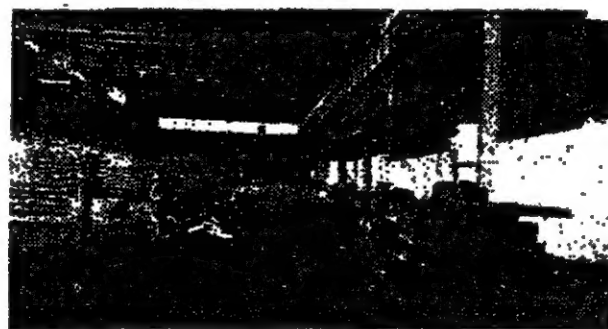
from its natural inheritance of oil wealth, rather than foreign oil companies, and, secondly, how to make sure that Qatar's future would be assured after the oil stopped flowing.

HH The Emir has never had any doubts especially on the second question. He has firmly stated on many occasions that the key to a stable society lies in its economy. Remembering Qatar's experiences of the past he was determined that Qatar should exploit its natural heritage to diversify its income as much as possible and never again, as in the pearling days, be at the mercy of the market for one commodity alone.

Industrialization was the key. Qatar with its oil and even more extensive reserves of natural gas had the energy sources to create heavy and light industry—but

oil companies. Qatar was also an observer at the first ever meeting of OPEC in 1960, and a full member at the second meeting. Since that time Qatar has been at the forefront of efforts by the oil producing countries to ensure full control of their production and revenue, participating in every major decision taken by the oil producing countries.

The declaration of independence announced by Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani on 2 September 1971, six months before he assumed the Emirate, was a major step on the road to Qatar gaining control of its own affairs, but it was still to take another five years before the state finally gained full control of its oil resources with one hundred per cent nationalization. With the establishment of the Qatar General Petroleum Corporation in 1977 Qatar finally acquired the right to determine its future and to spend its



Qatar Iron and Steel Company (QASCO) is the third of its kind in the Middle East and produces 400,000 tons per year

own wealth in the most appropriate way.

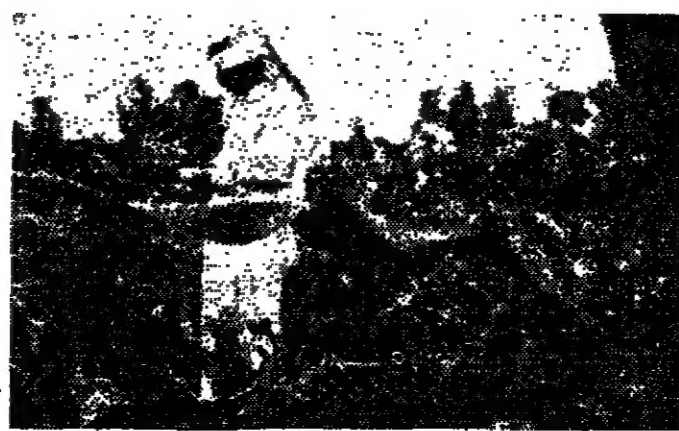
That way has been and continues to be to develop the people and the economy. The development of the people is achieved by an extensive education and medical care programme.

Educationally, since the Emir as Minister of Education in the late fifties established an overall educational programme, Qatar now has over 38,000 people in full time education from primary schooling to university level. Education is free and financial help is available for poor families to ensure that children are not deprived of education because of their parents' economic status.

At the upper level the university of Qatar continues to expand with



Health care is a priority in Qatar and the new 600-bed Hamad General Hospital is soon to be opened



Self sufficiency is the aim of Qatar's agricultural policy.

a further 600 students being accepted this year for degree and teacher training courses. More students are taking places in technical training courses and other aspects of education directly related to Qatar's development programme. The illiteracy programme has exceeded all expectation, particularly where women are concerned and there are real hopes of eradicating illiteracy in the coming few years even among senior citizens.

If education is one prerequisite for development, then health is the other. Healthy individuals can build a strong society. This belief has led the government of Qatar to become one of the foremost states in the world in offering free health care not only to its native citizens but also to anyone residing or working in the country. The latest project in this field in Qatar is the Hamad General Hospital, a 600 bed hospital with medical and surgical facilities equipped to the latest technological standards due to open in the near future.

Less spectacular but just as important is the mass immunization programme carried out amongst the entire child population last year against polio and other endemic diseases, and the country wide programme for preventive medicine which is now under way.

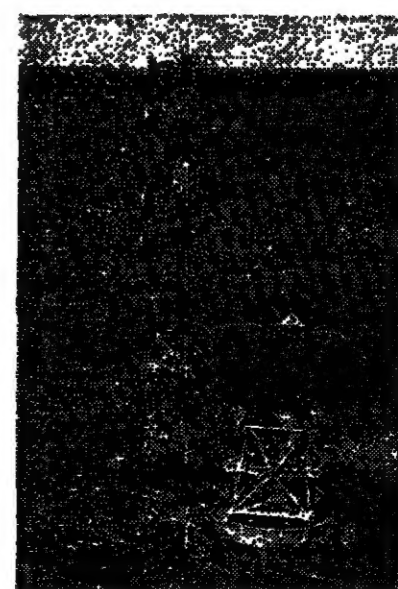
The fact that such matters as health and education have been taken very seriously from the beginning as elements of development are important indicators of how seriously the problems of development are taken in Qatar. Even though according to international statistics Qatar is, on a per capita basis, one of the richest states in the world, the government of Qatar and the Emir have no illusions that the road of development is hard, and it is wise to proceed with caution. Development on a physical level without development of the society is a recipe for national disaster and one which the people of Qatar guided by HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, have been careful to avoid.

Still Qatar was in a race against time. As early as 1960 oil industry pessimists were warning that Qatar's oil reserves would be depleted by the 1980s or sooner. Though the predictions soon proved to be wrong, nevertheless the message was correct and understood.

In the sixties the first difficult steps in industrialization were taken with the installation of a petrol refinery, a cement plant and a fertilizer factory. But all were on a small scale.

The OPEC decision in 1973 to triple the price of crude oil and the Qatar government's steps to complete nationalization of the oil industry were the two crucial steps which allowed Sheikh Khalifa's dream for the country to unfold.

The new higher revenues meant that existing projects could be upgraded and work begun on new immense projects aimed at the export market. One such project which is already proving a major success is the Qatar Steel Company (QASCO) built at a cost of more than 1,000 million riyals. This year



Qatar's earth satellite station ensures efficient telecommunications and the facility to receive and transmit international colour television programmes

QASCO has exceeded its production targets and its high quality steel and prompt delivery dates have attracted many overseas customers.

Perhaps the most interesting project in the rapidly expanding Umm Said industrial town south of Doha is the petrochemical plant expected to go on stream in a few months' time.

In April 1975 the Qatar government signed a co-operation agreement with French corporation, Copenor, for the construction and operation of two petrochemical plants, one in Dunkirk, France, the other in Umm Said, Qatar. Qatar was to own 80 per cent of its own plant and 40 per cent of the Dunkirk project.

Under this unique cross-investment plan, Qatar gains French technical and management expertise—Qatari staff are being trained currently in Dunkirk. The French plant, already in operation, gives a chance for early market assessment. And because the State of Qatar has a vested financial interest in the Dunkirk plant, technical co-operation will continue on a long term basis, unlike the usual technical advisory contracts.

That such a project should have been initiated is just one more example of the care with which the government of Qatar under the able leadership of HH The Emir Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani is using the benefits of today to build the Qatar of tomorrow. When the oil runs out, as one day it must, Qatar will be well equipped with an industry based on natural gas of which there are reserves enough for hundreds of years.

Economic stability and security is, HH The Emir rightly believes, the key to the strength and security of the nation in all its aspects. Hence in this crucial period, much of Qatar's energy and effort is devoted to building a strong confident nation. But HH The Emir has always been keen to maintain strong external relations.

HH Sheikh Khalifa, one of the Gulf's most respected and admired leaders, has always sought closer co-operation between Gulf countries.

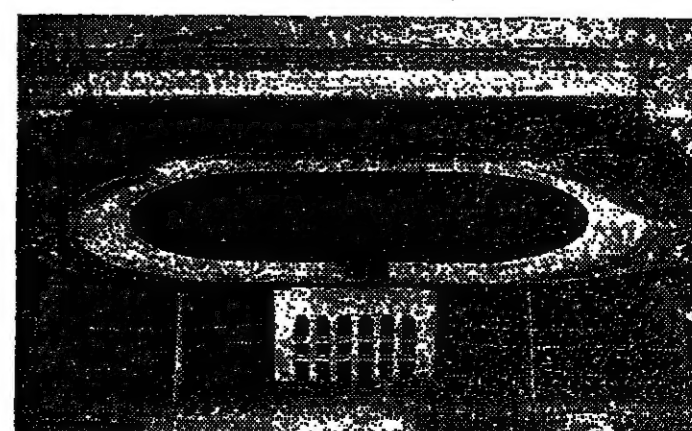
On the Arab front, Qatar is more and more playing a full part in all aspects of Arab co-operation on political, social and economic levels. Qatar is proud to be part of the Arab world with its rich heritage, and is most careful despite the pressures of industrialization to maintain most firmly its Arab character and its link with its Arab brothers.

The social and moral force which unites the society is the Islamic faith, a religion of tolerance and ability to adapt to new situations and demands, while providing the believer with a protection against modern decadence.

In the international arena, Qatar as a developing country is only too aware of the problems of other states seeking to secure their future, especially those not blessed with the gift of oil or other such raw materials. Through OPEC and other international agencies Qatar has made its voice heard in the call for a more just economic order in the world, and has contributed extensively to international aid programmes.

But where foreign policy is concerned, and especially with regard to relations with the West, there is one issue which overrides all others. The State of Qatar firmly supports the call of the Palestinian people for the return of their homeland and their legitimate rights.

In years to come, the people of Qatar will accept as normal their industrial society, perhaps forgetting the pain and toil which has been expended to make the future a shining certainty. What has been achieved, and any traveller to Qatar can see for himself, is the result of the confidence of the people in one man's dream.



Qatar's magnificent football stadium has proved a popular venue for both local and international events

HOME NEWS

Metal fatigue found in crashed Buccaneer and cracks in 20 more

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

Signs of metal fatigue have been discovered in the RAF Buccaneer aircraft which crashed in the Nevada desert two weeks ago. The RAF stated last night. Minor cracks have also been found in 20 of the other Buccaneers inspected so far as a result of the accident, in which both crewmen were killed.

The fault in the crashed aircraft was in the mainplane front spar, which supports the wings and other cracks have been found in the same part or in the wing itself.

The RAF does not yet know whether metal fatigue caused the crash. No conclusive evidence is likely at least until all the wreckage has been flown back to base for detailed inspection. Bad weather has prevented helicopters from reaching the accident site in the desert.

A RAF spokesman emphasized that the cracks in the 20 other Buccaneers were all minor. Most could be repaired in less than a day and the entire programme should be completed within a fortnight.

The RAF has an operational training flight in the Buccaneer, a board of investigation in the United States has satisfied itself that there were no other structural defects in the aircraft.

The eight Buccaneers still in the United States after the annual Red Flag bombing exercises will be allowed to fly back to Britain, however, and all the aircraft will remain on operational stand-by in case of emergency.

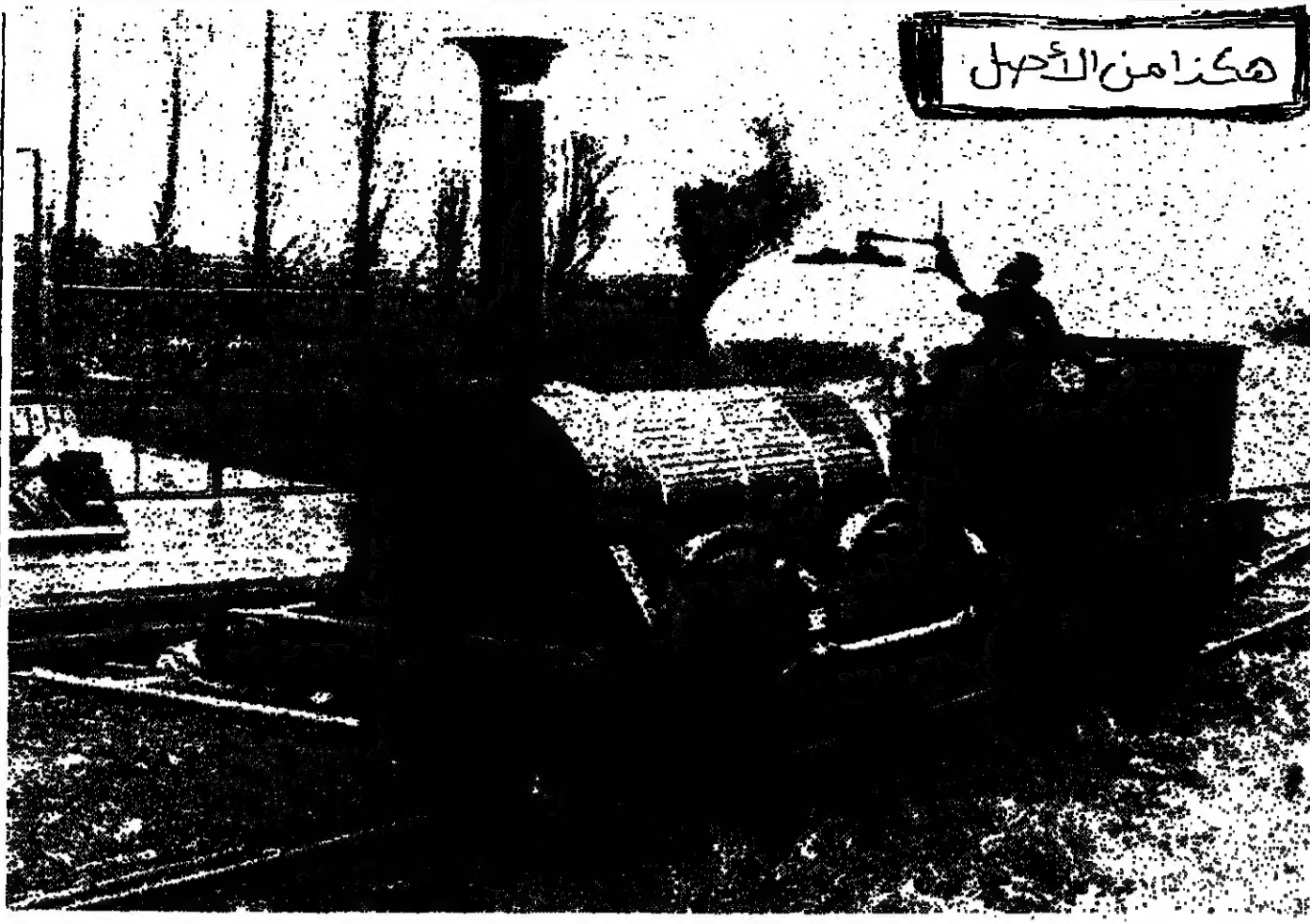
The Buccaneer first flew in 1958 and the first operational squadron entered service with the Royal Navy in 1962. The RAF ordered 48 in the early 1970s. All of them have been delivered and it has taken over the Royal Navy's aircraft since the demise of angled-deck aircraft carriers.

The Buccaneer was designed as a low-level strike aircraft with a maximum speed of 200ft of about 645 mph, just below the speed of sound.

Three RAF squadrons are based at Honington, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and two squadrons at Laarbruch, West Germany, where the crashed aircraft came from.

The RAF would not disclose last night whether the cracks had been found in the older, former Navy aircraft or in more recent models. Metal fatigue in the younger Buccaneers would obviously provoke more public concern.

The RAF is also in service with the South African Air Force.



The locomotive Lion, built 142 years ago, travelling on the private line of Ruston Diesels, Newton-le-Willows, yesterday after completion of restoration work by staff there.

Dairy men protest at butter subsidy

By Hugh Clayton
Agricultural Correspondent

Two weeks of the price of a pint bottle of milk went towards a subsidy that enabled British butter to compete with cheap supplies from abroad, dairy men yesterday told members of the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture.

Mr John Travers Clarke, president of the Dairy Trade Federation, said: "Every pensioner and every child who buys a bottle of milk provides 2p which goes into subsidizing milk used for other products. There is a splendid but expensive liquid milk."

Mr John Owens, director-general of the federation, said that when the Education No 2 Bill was passed local authorities no longer would be obliged to give schoolchildren free milk. "If the Bill is passed without amendment as seems likely, we are going to lose 90 million litres a year," he said.

EEC rules allowed for Community subsidies on school milk if national governments contributed a small proportion of the cost. If the Bill now spent on school milk through the rate support grant was paid into the EEC fund, a further £60m would be available from the fund.

Charities' plea for tax reform 'ignored'

The National Council of Social Service is concerned that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not responded to its proposals on tax reforms to help charities.

Mr Nicholas Hinton, director of the council, said yesterday that a letter had been sent to Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, on December 20 requesting a meeting to discuss proposals made by its fiscal working party. A further letter was sent at the beginning of this month.

"We are dismayed that the Chancellor has not seen fit to discuss the proposals with members of the working party. There was particular concern about the Chancellor's lack of response as tax changes he had introduced had affected voluntary organizations very severely."

The increase in VAT had added an estimated £4m to their running costs and the reduction in the standard rate of income tax from 33 to 30 per cent had lost them £3m in recoverable tax, Mr Hinton said.

The proposals put to the Chancellor in December included a reduction in the minimum period for eligible deeds of covenant from seven to four years; the introduction of some form of allowance against taxable income in respect of single donations by individuals to charities; and that the net amount received by a charity under a deed of covenant should be deemed to have been taxed at an average rate of 45 per cent.

Lower tar may not cut smoking risk

By Our Medical Correspondent

Smokers who switch to low tar cigarettes may lower their risk of lung cancer but not of other lung diseases, a report in *The Lancet* states. Indeed, smokers who increase their consumption of milder cigarettes may aggravate the risk of progressive disease of the lungs.

The warnings are based on a survey of 18,000 London civil servants whose health is being monitored by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Two forms of lung disease were found to be common in those who smoked: a cough which produced phlegm, and shortness of breath associated with wheezing.

Those who smoked high tar cigarettes had more cough than smokers of low tar cigarettes. However, the severity of their shortness of breath was linked with the number of cigarettes smoked and not with their tar content.

The report says that the findings suggest that some of the lung damage caused by cigarette smoking may be due to as yet unidentified irritants in the smoke. More information is needed about both the nature and concentrations of the irritants and their relation to the tar content of cigarettes.

Kampuchea reports gain top journalism award

John Pilger, of the *Daily Mirror*, has been named Journalist of the Year for his reports on the suffering of the Kampuchean people, in the British Press Awards for 1979.

"For his impact on world opinion, his articles were the most important and effective news stories published in British newspapers in 1979," Sir Edward Pickering, chairman of the judges, said.

Melanie Phillips, of *The Guardian*, who disclosed virginity tests on immigrant women, won the Reporter of the Year award. Commended in that category were Darryl Freedman, Brian Ellis and Peter Richardson, of the *Lancashire Evening Post*.

Campaigning Journalist of the Year is John McCrick, of *The Sporting Life*, who exposed a tote scandal of after-time betting that led to an official inquiry. Commended was Edna Ellis, *Liverpool Daily Post* and *Evening Echo*.

Provincial Journalist of the Year is Peter Browne, of the *Chronicle and Echo*, Northampton, for a series of articles on the effects of cutbacks in local schools. Commended were Philip Lyons, *Birmingham Evening Mail*, Margaret Milne, *Evening Times*, Glasgow, and Carol Robertson and John Bailey, *Sunderland Echo*.

Young Journalist of the Year is Stephen Larter, of the *Buckinghamshire Advertiser*, for his reports on the siding of a motorway in the area. Commended are Aileen Ballantyne, *The Guardian*, Robert Schofield, *Yorkshire Post*, and Susan Spindler, *Wokingham Times*.

Other winners are: Specialist Writer of the Year: Angus Macpherson, defence correspondent of the *Daily Mail*. Commended: Christine Doyle, *The Observer*.

Sports Journalist of the Year: John Arlott, *The Guardian*. Commended: Patrick Collins, *Evening News*, London; Julie Welch, *The Observer*.

Columnist of the Year: Sam White, of *Evening Standard*, London. Commended: Paul Foot, *Daily Mirror*; Barry White, *Belfast Telegraph*.

Critic of the Year: Anthony Burgess, *The Observer*. Commended: Peter Heyworth, *The Observer*.

Photographer of the Year: Graham Wood, *Daily Mail*. Commended: John Dawes, *Daily Star*; Michael Maloney, *Daily Mirror*.

News Photographer of the Year: Kent Gavin, *Daily Mirror*, for his Mountbatten funeral pictures. Commended: Colin Davey, *Evening Standard*, London.

A special award was made to David Leigh, of *The Guardian*, for his investigative reports on official secrecy.

Russian replaced as RPO conductor

By Our Music Reporter

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra has replaced Yuri Temirkanov, the Russian, as conductor for two concerts next month. It has been unable to find out from the Russian agency, Gosconcert, whether he would fulfil the engagements.

Mr Temirkanov was appointed the orchestra's principal guest conductor last September. The orchestra had hoped his engagements would not be affected by the restrictions imposed by the Russian Government on its artists' appearances in the West.

However, the RPO's management, after weeks of vain attempts, felt it could wait for confirmation no longer. It announced yesterday that the concerts on March 2 and 4 would be conducted by Sir Alexander Gibson, the musical director of the Scottish National Orchestra.

The soloist for the March 4 concert was scheduled to be Elia Wirsaladze, the Russian pianist, but the RPO was similarly unable to get confirmation of her appearance. It has arranged for Alicia de Larrocha, the Spanish pianist, to appear in her place.

Most of the London orchestras are in difficulties over the scheduled appearances by Russian artists because of the apparent capriciousness of the Soviet Government.

Dmitri Alexeev, the pianist, was unable to appear with the RPO at a concert on January 31, but Gidon Kremer, the violinist, is in London, and will be playing with the orchestra on February 28.

Meanwhile the Philharmonia Orchestra has received confirmation of the visit early in March by Emil Gilels, the pianist, and is hopeful that that will not be disrupted.

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Animal rights man gatecrashed dinner

Roger Barfoot, a campaigner for animal rights, who was said to have posed as a doctor to get into a fur traders' charity dinner at the Savoy Hotel, London, on Wednesday night, appeared at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, yesterday.

Mr Barfoot, aged 38, chairman of the animal rights organization, Conquest, agreed to be bound over to keep the peace for 12 months in the sum of £100. No charge was preferred.

Police Sergeant Norman Boyd said Mr Barfoot was at Pembroke Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, was twice asked to leave the hotel.

About 100 demonstrators picketed the hotel and eight other protesters are due to appear in court next Thursday.

After the hearing Mr Barfoot said he had twice entered the Savoy in an attempt to confront

Americans drop objection to young British actors

By Martin Huckerby
Theatre Reporter

To the surprise and delight of the National Youth Theatre, American Equity has reversed its decision to ban the young actors from performing for a trip either in the autumn or in the spring of next year.

Although British Equity was not involved, because the National Youth Theatre is an amateur group, the union recently took a conciliatory approach towards its rather difficult relations with American Equity, and it is possible that the move may have influenced the Americans.

Mr Croft thought the Americans' decision could lead to a better understanding between the two unions. It was "a good augury".

Libel damages for Lord Burghersh

Lord Burghersh, aged 28, accepted an apology and an undisclosed sum in damages in settlement of a High Court libel action yesterday over an allegation in the *Daily Express* that he was refused admission to a Monte Carlo night club.

He sued *Express Newspapers*, complaining of an item in the Hickey column of the *Daily Express* in May 1978.

Mr Richard Ruxton, his counsel, told Mr Justice Chapman that the *Daily Express* article stated that Lord Burghersh, of the Fulham Road, Fulham, London, after being refused admission to the Monte Carlo club, "wheeled his way back in."

In fact, counsel added, it appeared that the case was one of mistaken identity.

Picket case report 'not unfair'

A newspaper's court report about a picket line incident involving one of its former employees was not unfair or misleading, although some phrases in it could have been more accurate, the Press Council ruled yesterday.

The council rejected a complaint by Mr Peter Anderson, of Clifton Lane, Wilford, Nottinghamshire, of unfair and unbalanced reporting of the case by the *Evening Post*, Nottingham, and of failure to correct a serious factual error.

The newspaper reported that magistrates found Mr Anderson, a former *Evening Post* reporter, not guilty of using threatening words and behaviour when picketing outside the newspaper office. The report said the constable who arrested him said he saw him struggling with a man and that later Mr Anderson said people such as the constable were ruining the country.

Mr Anderson was said to have told the court a man approached him but he said nothing to the man and stood between two policemen. The man grabbed

him and he asked the policeman whether they would arrest the man. A senior officer had Mr Anderson arrested. According to the report, Mr Anderson denied saying that people such as the constable were ruining the country.

Mr Anderson asked the editor for a full correction. The story gave a full version of the prosecution case and a brief summary of the defence, missing several crucial points, he said. It had him saying nothing to his assailant whereas he had told the court what he did say. He had also given his version of his conversation with the constable.

Mr William Smith, the editor, replied that the report made clear the case failed. It was unnecessary to give all the evidence to achieve balance. The prosecution case took 34 lines, the defence 54.

Mr Anderson complained to the Press Council that he had not spoken to his assailant who was made up. Although the report said he denied the constable's version of the conversation, it

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OVERSEAS

Israeli envoys meet to counter British plan for Palestinians

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Israeli ambassadors from 14 countries in Western Europe held an emergency meeting in London yesterday, to consider the latest moves by Britain and other EEC countries to associate the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) with the peace process.

The importance of the occasion can be judged by the fact that Mr. Yosef Chikvashvili, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, flew to London to chair the meeting. Later he called on Mr. Douglas Hurd, Minister of the Foreign Office, and today he will have further talks with Sir Michael Palmer, the Permanent Under-Secretary.

Israel, under Mr. Begin's leadership, remains totally opposed not simply to recognition of the PLO, but to any dealings with it whatever. The principal culprit, in Israeli eyes, for what is seen as an attempt to undermine this policy, is the British Government.

Lord Carrington, since his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, has made no secret of his belief that the PLO must be brought into the negotiations for a settlement, in order to follow up the Camp David accord between Egypt and Israel. This was an important step, in his view, only "half way" towards a solution.

Britain asked to keep out of autonomy talks

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Feb 21

Anglo-Israeli diplomatic relations are becoming increasingly strained by persistent reports that Britain is leading an EEC initiative to secure an amendment to Resolution 242 of the United Nations Security Council which would recognise the right of Palestinian self-determination.

The Israelis regard the reported British moves as a severe threat to the Middle East peace process and particularly to the continuing work on Palestinian autonomy which now appears unlikely to be completed by the target date of May 26 agreed at Camp David.

Last night Mr. Yigael Yadin, the Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the Democratic Movement, which has been the target of angry attacks which have been made on Britain in the last week by Mr. Begin, the Prime Minister, and the Ambassador-designate to Egypt, Mr. Ben-Elissar.

Expressing Israeli "annoyance" Mr. Yadin called on the British Government to give the autonomy talks a chance to succeed and to desist from efforts to secure a change in the wording of Resolution 242, which was drawn up in 1967 with Britain as the main author.

He claimed that the move would harm the complicated peace process, and he called on the British Government to leave matters to Israel, Egypt and America, the countries which, he said, had shown the courage to try to reach agreement in the first place.

Mr. Yadin's speech came on the eve of the meeting of 14 ambassadors held in London today, to plan a diplomatic offensive to counter any attempt to alter the wording of Resolution 242.

One tactic the Israeli diplomats are expected to adopt is to try to convince their various host governments, including Britain, that the Palestine Liberation Organization is still a dangerous terrorist group.

King Khalid well enough to receive visitors

Riyadh, Feb 21.—King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, who is recovering from a heart operation, received a number of local dignitaries today, the Saudi press agency said.

It made no mention of his state of health, but political sources said the fact that the King was allowed to receive visitors was "an encouraging sign in itself". He entered hospital on Monday.

Tanzania puts pressure on Uganda leader

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Feb 21

The Tanzanian Foreign Minister has visited Uganda with a message from President Nyerere urging President Binaisa to resolve the latest crisis in his Government by reconciling the opposing factions.

President Binaisa has been under pressure from members of his own Government since removing Mr. Paulo Muvanga as interior minister nearly two weeks ago. The dismissal has been popular because Mr. Muvanga was blamed for failing to control a serious crime wave.

Government sources in Kampala said that President Nyerere had threatened to withdraw the estimated 15,000 Tanzanian troops which were remained in Uganda since overthrowing former President Idi Amin.

The same sources said that the Tanzanian President was supporting demands from one section of the ruling party for Mr. Muvanga to be returned to the Cabinet. Mr. Binaisa, however, says his stability will be negated if he is forced to reinstate Mr. Muvanga, who has been named as ambassador to Geneva.

Polo game to bring Brunei and Malaysia closer

From Our Correspondent
Kuala Lumpur, Feb 21

The King of Malaysia and his queen leave for a private visit to the Sultanate of Brunei on March 4 to watch the Malaysian team take part in an international polo tournament there.

The visit is an indication of the growing warmth between the two countries. Relations had been uneasy for a while after Brunei declined to join the Malaysian Federation in 1962, but in the past three years there has been a rapprochement.

In 1978, Daruk Hussin Ota, the Malaysian Prime Minister, and Sir Omar Ali Saifuddin, the father of the Sultan of Brunei, were together at Ascot during the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations. It was the first time that the two heads of government had been seen together for more than 15 years.

Rock concert Bill is debated

Albany, New York, Feb 21.—The New York State Legislature yesterday considered a Bill to tighten controls on numbers at rock concerts after 11 people died in a stampede for seats at

Troop move towards Pakistan reported

Peshawar, Feb 21.—Soviet troops in Afghanistan are moving in force closer to the Pakistan border and could try to seal it off, Muslim guerrillas and independent sources in contact with Afghan refugees said today.

They said that Soviet troops had moved out of the garrison town of Jalalabad, 50 miles from the Khyber Pass, and into the border province of Pakia in the past few days.

The Durand Line frontier, named after the British diplomat who drew it in the last century, runs across mountainous terrain separating Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province from Afghanistan. It is frequently crossed by Afghan insurgents taking arms and ammunition to fight the Communist regime in Kabul and returning with intelligence on Soviet and Afghan Army movements.

Insurgent movements with headquarters in Peshawar, an hour's drive from the border, have said guerrillas will cross in strength into Afghanistan in a few weeks when the winter snows have melted.

Pakistan fears that Soviet troops could launch "hot pursuit" operations across the border after the guerrillas. President Zia ul-Haq said yesterday that Pakistan would defend its independence and territorial integrity at any cost.

One source said: "We believe the Soviet troops will try to seal the Durand Line just as the United States tried to cut the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Indochina. It remains to be seen whether the Soviet Army will have any more success."

The sources said that fighting continued in Pakia and in Badkhashan Provinces. There also appeared to be a big Soviet effort under way in the north eastern Afghanistan to relieve the border town of Birkot which has been reported under guerrilla siege for several months.

Pakistani sources said that refugees fleeing from Afghanistan at the rate of 1,000 a week over the past two weeks.—Reuter.

Pentagon reduces estimate of Soviet troop numbers

From David Cross
Washington, Feb 21

The Pentagon has reduced its estimates of the number of Soviet troops occupying Afghanistan. The Defence Department now believes there are 70,000 troops in the country and a further 30,000 on the Soviet side of the border, according to a spokesman.

Earlier estimates put the Soviet strength in Afghanistan at about 95,000.

The spokesman said the lower estimate was due to any withdrawal of Soviet troops but to a refinement of earlier figures. It appears that the 30,000 troops now thought to be on the Soviet side of the border were originally included in the 95,000 total.

Meanwhile State Department officials said today that Soviet

Embassies asked to help win release of journalist

From Hassan Akhtar
Islamabad, Feb 21

Diplomatic attempts are being made to free Mr. Mukhtar Hassan, a Pakistani journalist who has been detained in Kabul for reasons that are not yet fully understood.

The Pakistan Foreign Office is said to have asked the embassies of Bangladesh and Turkey in Kabul to intercede on behalf of Mr. Hassan. The Pakistan Embassy in Kabul is reported to be trying to see him.

Mr. Hassan is the Islamabad correspondent of the Karachi Urdu-language newspaper Jang. He went to Kabul, apparently on an assignment, on January 7. He was detained on February 10 and some press reports said he was arrested for overstaying his visa.

According to reports reaching here the Afghan Foreign Office has informed the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul that the

and Afghan troops in the Kabul area seemed to be in a state of "heightened alert" in response to a general strike being mounted by shops and businesses in the capital.

The officials said a general closing of shops and businesses appeared to have the support of their owners as well as that of dissident groups and some university students. The strike was evidently encouraged by insurgent groups through so-called "night letters", the officials added.

Reports reaching Washington also said that fire from small arms and automatic weapons had been heard on the outskirts of Kabul. Similar strikes had taken place in cities like Herat, Kandahar and Jalalabad in the last six weeks and appeared to be spreading.

Mr. Hassan's release was being considered.

The Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation correspondent reported today that officials were optimistic.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan, the linking of six Afghan insurgent groups, has denied a Voice of America radio report which said that the United States Government was arming Afghan guerrillas with Russian-made arms.

The alliance's denial also rejected the reported statement of Mr. Kamel Hasan Ali, the Egyptian Defence Minister, that Egypt was providing military training for Afghan insurgents.

It challenged foreign journalists, particularly the Australian Council of Trade Unions, which represents most Australian workers.

Mr. Bob Hawke, president of the council, said that if Mr. Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, insisted that athletes stay away from the games, it would be improper for Australians to allow athletes to bear the burden alone.

Mr. Hawke said: "If that were done by the Prime Minister, we would support a total national ban on all Soviet Union trade and communication for the period of the games. This would particularly concern wool."—Reuter.

Australia unions link boycott to Olympic ban

Melbourne, Feb 21.—Australian trade unions decided today to boycott trade and communications links with the Soviet Union during the Moscow Olympic Games, if Australian athletes did not attend.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the executive of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, which represents most Australian workers.

Mr. Bob Hawke, president of the council, said that if Mr. Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, insisted that athletes stay away from the games, it would be improper for Australians to allow athletes to bear the burden alone.

Mr. Hawke said: "If that were done by the Prime Minister, we would support a total national ban on all Soviet Union trade and communication for the period of the games. This would particularly concern wool."—Reuter.

Policeman killed

Bogota, Feb 21.—A policeman was shot dead and another seriously wounded by men who fired from a moving car, police said. The officers were patrolling on motorcycles in an elegant suburb in western Bogota.



Tableau of war: Afghan guerrillas stand proudly on a Soviet armoured vehicle captured east of Kabul.

Kabul shuts up shop in protest

Kabul, Feb 21.—Nearly all shops in the city and big bazaar closed today in protest against the Soviet Army's presence in Afghanistan. The shutdown came after the distribution of letters during the night by Muslim nationalists.

Many shops were boarded up or had iron grills across them, indicating that the closure might last for some time. Security police were seen trying to force one shopkeeper to pull down his shutters and an angry crowd gathered in an attempt to stop them.

Official Pakistani sources said that refugees fleeing from Afghanistan at the rate of 1,000 a week over the past two weeks.—Reuter.

Setback to hopes of freeing US hostages

Tehran, Feb 21.—Radical students holding 49 hostages at the occupied American Embassy here today dismissed as "foolish expectation" Washington hopes that the captives could be freed before the deposed Shah is returned to face trial in Iran.

Mr. Sadeq Qorbzadeh, Iran's Foreign Minister, was meanwhile preparing a report for the ruling Revolutionary Council on preparations for a United Nations-sponsored investigation into the Shah's rule, sources close to the Council said.

At Tehran University, rival factions fought with knives and fists today as 7,000 Muslim extremists tried to break up an election rally by 60,000 radical supporters of the deposed Shah, the former Mujahedin guerrilla leader. Witnesses said several people were injured.

During the night, Ayatollah Khomeini called on the nation to hold out for the extradition of the Shah.

The Ayatollah told Iranians: "You should ask forcefully from the United States and any other nation which is supporting this criminal Muhammad Reza Pahlavi for his extradition and the return of his wealth and do not stop until you achieve victory."

The revolutionary leader also paid tribute to "our dear youth who... by their movement have thrown the enemies of religion off the scene", a remark taken to include the embassy students who have sworn to follow the Ayatollah's line unwaveringly.

Ayatollah Khomeini's message seemed bound to reinforce resistance to a compromise on the hostage issue.

The students' statement, which gained extra prominence by being broadcast on the state radio, said America must return "the runaway Muhammad Reza Shah Pahlavi" together with his property.

"The moral delay in this conception, the more the anti-human rights nature of America will be known to the people of the world, if the Shah is not extradited, any expectation of America about the reconsideration of the situation of the hostages is a foolish expectation."

The United States Administration and Dr. Kirt Waldheim,

the United Nations Secretary-General, hope that the commission will lead to the release of the hostages. Dr. Waldheim created the five-man commission yesterday and said it would come to Tehran at the weekend. It is composed of lawyers from France, Algeria, Syria, Sri Lanka and Venezuela.

Although few details were available, Government officials in Iran were believed to be holding intense discussions over the exact programme of the commission.

Mr. Nasir-o-Sadat Salami, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said that Iran had collected documents to show the commission, but he added that Iran itself and its cemeteries, its cripples and former prisoners, its culture, villages and slums were all documents.

"The object of Iran is to show that America had a share in the crimes of the Shah and it was America which ordered the Shah what to do. America is the cause. The Shah was a servant of America," he added.

Dr. Waldheim said yesterday that no deadline had been set for the freeing of the hostages, now in their 110th day of captivity. Iranian leaders have said several times that the holding of the inquiry will not lead automatically to their release.

Mr. Qorbzadeh said today that the delay in the commission's arrival was not linked with his remarks separating the inquiry from the hostages' release.

Reuters consulted: Members of the United Nations-sponsored commission on Iran today conferred with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ).

After meeting the commission, Mr. Jacques Morillon, head of the ICRC legal department, said that while they were ready to visit them, the hostages could not be released into the care of the Red Cross.

"We cannot be a neutral intermediary where there is already one in the form of the commission", he said.

Storm bill may exceed \$241m in California

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, Feb 21

California started today to count the damage from what officials are calling the worst weather in more than 50 years. Two more monsoon-like storms are due to hit the west coast later today and on Saturday.

So far more than 30 people have died and in California, the most populous American state, the damage is expected to exceed \$500m (about £241m). Scores of homes have been destroyed by floods and mudslides, hundreds of houses have been badly damaged and thousands of residents have been forced to leave their homes after the sixth storm in eight days.

Governor Jerry Brown has asked President Carter to declare Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura and Riverside Counties disaster areas. The Governor, who returned to California on Tuesday from New Hampshire where he was campaigning for the presidency, sent an emissary to Washington seeking aid and then immediately left the state to resume campaigning.

Mr. Mike Curb, the Lieutenant-Governor who is acting Governor in Mr. Brown's absence, followed up with a letter to President Carter making a formal request for help.

The storms have caused chaos on highways. Main roads have been closed and streets and houses have been washed away in a sea of flood water and mud.

Farmers in California reported that the rains have caused millions of dollars in damage to the vast agriculture industry. So far it is estimated that more than \$100m worth of crops have been lost, mostly strawberries, celery, lettuce, onions and lemons. This will mean that these products will become scarce and costlier in a state where fresh produce is cheap.

Last night and this morning a storm driven by 40 to 50 mph winds dropped another two inches of rain on California, bringing the season's total rainfall to 21.5in, more than twice the normal 9.73in. More than 13in of rain have fallen in the past week.

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OVERSEAS

Italian-American puts Mr Reagan on rack of ethnic jokes

From Patrick Brogan
Manchester, New Hampshire,
Feb 21

The Republican primary here reached something of a slow crescendo last night as the seven candidates gathered in a school auditorium for a "debate". The star of the evening was Mr Ronald Reagan. He missed the last debate, in Iowa, before the caucuses there last month and was soundly beaten by Mr George Bush.

Questions were put to the candidates by three reporters and by a crowd of onlookers in the audience. The most predictable, though Mr John Connally accused Mr Sadeq Qorbzadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, of being a KGB agent and Mr Reagan recommended a blockade of Cuba.

One of the reporters reminded the candidates that the deficit in the budget which President Carter has just proposed consists almost entirely of increases in social security payments and welfare payments and asked whether they would cut to balance the budget, as they all say they desire. "And please," she added, "be specific".

Six of the candidates replied that tax cuts would increase the economy (Mr Reagan promises to cut taxes by a third) but Mr John Anderson, a Congressman from Illinois who has consistently gone against the grain of conventional Republican wisdom, recommended a 50 cent tax on a gallon of petrol.

The revenue would be spent on halving social security contributions and the ensuing reduction in consumption would reduce inflation by reducing the balance of payments deficit.

The only other candidate who proposed such a drastic remedy to American dependence on foreign energy is Senator Edward Kennedy. He advocates petrol rationing. The fate of Mr Joe Clark, in Canada, contested over a proposed 10-cent petrol tax, shows how politically dangerous such strong medicine can be.

The only moment of real drama last night came right at the end when one of the questioners from the floor addressing Mr Reagan, scrapped the question he had submitted. He said that he was an Italian-American and asked whether Mr Reagan approved of making ethnic jokes.

The former Governor of California on his campaign bus the other day made a rather unfunny joke about a Pole and an Italian, and it was repeated. He looked old and worried as he answered, claiming that the joke had been taken out of context, that the press was unfair. "I have not told the story the way it was reported by the reporter that reported it," he said. "I do not go around telling ethnic jokes. I was the victim. In the slang expression, I was snifted."

Whether the debate itself will have much effect is another matter. It was very dull and though the candidates tried to make their policies clear, they had little time to do so. The most recently published opinion poll results here put Mr Bush ahead of Mr Reagan—with the others far behind—and give President Carter a commanding lead over Senator Kennedy among the Democrats.

The local *Manchester Union-Leader* says the Democrats have a choice between "stupid, the coward, the flake and the dark horse".

Mr Reagan is campaigning hard, going from door to door and coffee party to coffee party. He is claiming to be a small state and it is possible for the senator to meet a high proportion of the voters and to remind them personally of the inflation rate, the cost of petrol, and interest rates that have just increased to 15 per cent.

The Kennedy did far better in the Iowa caucuses on February 10 than many experts predicted, coming within four percentage points of the vote won by the President. He won the equivalent of nine delegates to Mr Carter's 11.

He is particularly well in the cities and is concentrating his efforts here in the cities of southern New Hampshire. These places are near to Massachusetts and he may do well.

Election scene, page 4

Chinese farmers pull down Great Wall

Peking, Feb 21.—More than 30 miles of the Great Wall of China, has been pulled down by farmers and in spite of protests the destruction continues. *People's Daily* reported today.

A letter in the newspaper said that the Great Wall was only one of several threatened monuments. The letter proposed that a law to punish those who damaged ancient monuments should be passed.

It noted that in December, 1977, the Communist Party's Central Committee issued instructions in response to letters from people that the Great Wall must not be destroyed.

The first sections of the Great Wall were built in the fifth century to block invasions from the north.

Many important ancient monuments are being used as factories and schools and cannot be opened for tourism, today's letter stated. The damage to our ancient buildings is serious.—UPI.

Refugees threaten hunger strike

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, Feb 21

Some 112,000 at the 1000-ft Dang holding centre 180 miles east of Bangkok have threatened to go on hunger strike after reports that some of them would soon be repatriated to the camp, eight miles from the Kampuchean border, on hearing the news. Children ran from their school houses and other buildings empty.

An American relief worker said today that since hearing the reports yesterday the camp people had been in a state of panic.

Most of the Kampuchean in the camp are anti-communist Free Khmers. Many of them fought the Communists for 10 years before fleeing into Thailand during the past three months.

Mr Paul Hartling, the United Nations High Commissioner for

Unesco ideologists worry Reuter head

Canberra, Feb 21.—Mr Gerald Long, the managing director of Reuters, expressed concern today about recommendations likely to be made by Unesco's commission on communication problems.

Mr Long said journalist members of the commission had managed to temper the efforts of ideologists in drawing up the last draft of the report which is due to be released this week. "But there is a strong element in the last draft which would regard as dangerous," he added.

One of them is a suggestion that there should be set up within Unesco an international centre for the study and planning of information and communication. Ideologists would probably use the centre as a permanent commission to promote ideas rejected by journalist members, he said.

Mr Long made these points in a speech to the National Press Club in Canberra during a two-day visit to Australia. He agreed with the draft report's rejection of special privileges to protect journalists because this could lead to a licensing system with someone deciding who was a journalist and who was not.

However, Mr Long rejected suggestions by Mr Sean MacBride, the commission chairman and Irish jurist, that journalists deprived of cards recognizing their professional status should have the right of appeal to a professional body.

Mr Long also disagreed with Mr MacBride's suggestion that protection for journalists could be achieved simply by an amendment to the Geneva Convention, saying this idea "ignores the reality of what happens, not frequently, but far too often on a dusty road in an African country, at a road block in Vietnam or in the streets of a city under military law."

Journalists were the only people who could help journalists in these matters, Mr Long said.

Journalists should state their profession as "journalist" in passports; editors should explicitly instruct journalists to avoid danger and journalists should be free of worry about their jobs or reputation if they did not get a story because they were cautious.

Journalists should also report fast and fully about what happened to colleagues in areas of conflict. "If they are missing, if they are hurt or detained, fast reporting can help and the past has shown that," Mr Long said.—Reuter.

Political violence in Turkey takes six lives

Istanbul, Feb 21.—At least six people were injured in several terrorist incidents across Turkey late yesterday and today, security officials said.

The killings were part of the daily left-versus-right violence that has been going on in the country for more than two years and has claimed more than 2,000 lives.

One of the latest casualties was a policeman who was shot dead on his way home late last night in the western port of Izmir, in spite of the imposition of martial law.

At the same time the Soviet press has given an unambiguous warning that anyone taking advantage of the coming shortage or exploiting the black market from access to meat supplies will be severely punished.

Newspapers have recently published lengthy articles on the benefits of private cattle-raising, both to the country and to individual peasants.

State farms have been urged to do more to help their own employees tend their own cows. A recent decree by the Communist Party Central Committee, in a clear attempt to argue arguments for collective farm managers that there is not enough fodder and fuel to provide for the state sector, led alone spare some for the private farmers, has ordered Soviet ministries to provide as a minimum 100,000 tons of meat and supplies to all Soviet farms.

An economist complained recently in *Pravda* that there were now fewer cows in private ownership than formerly. In line with the new party policy

few years and was concluded in Brussels last December, will give the Asian nations most favoured nation status. Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia already receive such treatment under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT). But the new agreement is to extend the same privilege to Thailand and the Philippines, which are not GATT signatories. The five countries are the component members of ASEAN.

The sources said that one important feature of the pact is the setting up of a joint committee on development cooperation. It is the first time that the EEC has committed itself to the signing of a pact.

The Italian Foreign Minister and President of the EEC Council of Foreign Ministers, and Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, the EEC External Affairs Commissioner. The Asian countries will be represented by their foreign ministers.

A senior civil servant with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries has publicly disagreed with an as yet unpublished report on the nutritional claims on food labels. The report, from the Food Standards Committee, an independent committee of scientists and experts which advises ministers, is due to be published on March 10.

Criticism of the report was made by Mr Bamford, head of the food standards division at the ministry, at a conference of food manufacturers.

He said: "If you make a nutritional claim, e.g. 'This will make you slim', then you will have to give the full nutritional details. I shouldn't say it, but I don't necessarily agree with that. Apart from the fact that you can fill up the whole darn label with it, it is the cost that concerns me."

You can require people to put all sorts of information on the package, but somebody's got to pay for it, and at the end of the day it's me as a consumer."

Mr Bamford's statement about the report illustrated the tension surrounding the present campaign by the Food Standards Committee to persuade manufacturers to improve labelling laws.

FOREIGN REPORT

Thousands of US convention votes for leader at stake

Choosing the people who choose the candidates

The delegates to the 1980 American Republican and Democratic national conventions, in other words the people who will ultimately choose the candidates to run in the next presidential election, are themselves to be chosen over the next 15 weeks in an extraordinarily complicated mixture of party caucuses, committee meetings, state conventions and primary elections.

Each state has the right to decide how it will select its convention delegates. The most popular method today is the state Presidential primary, in which party members express their preferences through an election, rather than by attending a meeting. It dates back to before the start of the century, and to an attempt to diminish the power of local party bosses.

This year 35 out of the 50 states, plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, are holding primary elections. A separate primary has been devised for Democrats living abroad.

Primaries are designed to test the popular appeal of a candidate, and to win him the votes of party delegates who then go on to the national nominating convention with a pledge to support him there.

Only registered Democrats vote in Democratic primaries; only Republicans in Republican primaries; but there are a number of registered independents, who can choose to vote in one or the other (but not both, and in some states independents are not allowed to vote).

In a few of the states which allow "open primaries", however, supporters may "cross over", deliberately distorting the result.

The Democratic candidates this year are competing for a total of 3,331 convention votes; the Republican candidates for 1,993.

More than half the votes at the Democratic nominating convention, to be held in New York between August 11 and 14, will have been decided in advance in binding primary elections.

Roughly half the Republican votes will have been determined before their nominating convention, which takes place in

Although primaries vary greatly, there are three basic types that govern the selection of delegates.

1. Proportional representation primary: as held by the Democrats in California, and both parties in Massachusetts. Under this system delegates are divided up among candidates in

Here, the state wide winner carries with him all the party's delegates from that state to the national convention. During the 70s, the Democrats outlawed winner-take-all binding primaries, in favour of proportional representation at the convention.

In the few states not holding primary elections, as, for instance, Iowa and Alaska, the process of selecting delegates begins when party members meet in local caucuses, usually at precinct level, to select delegates to the next level, usually the county. At the county convention delegates are chosen to go on to the congress, district and state conventions.

Conventional wisdom has it that the primaries produce the winners, but individual state results can be misleading, not least because turnout is so small. In the 1976 primaries, only 28 per cent of those who could vote actually did so.

Traditionally, the primary in New Hampshire, to be held on February 26, has been the first primary of the season. But this year the Republican Party of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico led off on February 17, though New Hampshire remains psychologically important, and in any case the first state where both parties are to hold primaries.

Because of the immense newspaper and television coverage given to the primaries, a candidate who does well in the early stages can build up a momentum which is later very hard to stop. In the 1976 campaign, Jimmy Carter virtually eliminated his opponents long before the national convention.

Caroline Moorehead

Shortages loom as grain embargo bites

Russian peasants urged to grow their own beef

of all-out support for the private sector, the article said these plans, which account for a very small proportion of the land under cultivation, were of great importance to the total agricultural output.

But, it said, although people in the countryside were now buying and rearing more pigs and poultry, they were not raising pedigree cattle. Instead they were selling cows because there was not enough pasture for them. Non-pedigree private cows were less productive than the state-owned herds, giving on average 450 litres less milk a year.

The article called for more free fodder for private farmers from the state sector, and it compared the lack of specialist advice to private farmers to the situation in Hungary where the state did much more to help.

Indeed, the economist argued, the lack of coordination between the two sectors meant that the country's overall cattle population was falling. Between 1967 and 1971 the number of cows on state farms grew by 200,000 whereas those in private ownership fell by 1,600,000.

In a comment on the article, *Pravda* displayed the typically ambivalent attitude of party ideologists. The paper admitted that private meat production was vital to the Soviet Union,

and praised the healthy moral and physical benefits of work on private plots.

But the paper complained that peasants were often greedy, selling their cows for too great a profit, and their plots were parasites on the state farms, receiving free fodder and services but providing benefits only for individual families.

Pravda repeated the arguments of Khrushchev, a staunch opponent of private agriculture, that state farm employees spent all their time and energy cultivating their profitable private plots.

The paper's ideal solution was a cooperative, something midway between the large state farms and the individual parcels of land worked by single families.

Recently the paper also gave an implicit warning that the courts will severely punish officials who exploit their position in dealing with meat supplies to make money.

An unusually long account of large-scale embezzlement by a Moscow meat supplier was printed on the back page, the page Russians generally look at first.

The case dealt with a man, well respected by society, who made 500,000 roubles (about £340,000) by giving customers short measure and overcharging.

For more than 20 years the shop director had bribed officials to obtain favours, and kept a record of all those in his debt so that, like a Mafia chief, he could threaten a large circle of influential friends who were under an obligation to him.

The case itself was typical. Shop assistants wielded enormous power in a country where there are constant shortages. People pay large bribes simply for regular information about the coming delivery of goods and food in short supply.

Shop assistants have frequent tempting opportunities to put scarce goods aside and sell them "under the counter" to regular clients for a considerably inflated price.

Good food, and especially meat, the yardstick by which most Russians measure their prosperity, is especially difficult to find. A large circle of influential friends who were under an obligation to him.

The Soviet authorities have long waged a fruitless campaign against this counter-economy. There are no clear indications that the penalties for profiteering are to be increased. And *Pravda* has given a warning that anyone caught speculating on the meat shortage will be especially severely dealt with.

Michael Binyon

Standards of packaging

Concern over cost to consumer of labelling nutritional contents

Mr Bamford made it clear that the Government had decided to change the basis of the labelling law. The old system required the names of common foods to be defined in law. Even now ingredients need not be listed on the labels of certain foods, such as ice cream.

That means that anything sold as ice cream must have been prepared according to rules fixed by agreement between ministers, their scientific advisers and ice cream companies. The Government has decided that consumers are no longer satisfied with such remote protection. They want to know what food contains, so that new laws which are due to take effect late this year will require ingredients to be listed on the labels of all packed foods.

That is especially desirable since the law allows, and will continue to allow, food to be called ice cream when it contains no cream and fizzy drinks to be called lemonade when they contain no part of a lemon.

Worry about the quality of commercially prepared food has penetrated to a high level. Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, mused about it when he spoke at a recent farmers' dinner in London.

He said: "I can be difficult to spot unless it is compared

really too bad," he said. "But as far as our food is concerned we are not exactly top of the league. It was not always so. In the eighteenth century English food was really rather good, but I am not sure that it is now."

He wondered whether British companies were handicapped when they tried to sell abroad, even though continental food was selling increasingly well in this country. Pickles, so I am told, are steeped in a stuff called non-brewed condiment, whatever that may be.

"I am sure it is an acquired taste," Lord Carrington said. "I wonder whether everyone in Europe has acquired these strange island tastes. And our own tastes are changing: pâtés, mineral waters, French cheeses and German sausages. Do we perhaps leave rather too much to our European competitors. Couldn't we be on occasion a bit more adventurous?"

The Food Standards Committee has already criticised the widespread habit of injecting ham with water. It has accepted the claims of consumer groups and trading standards officers that such products contain so much added water that they no longer deserve to be called simply "ham".

Such "ham" can be difficult to spot unless it is compared

with the traditional cured product. When the two are placed side-by-side the difference is immediately apparent. The "ham" which has been injected with water is more gummy with a more spongy texture and it often has less flavour.

The Food Standards Committee has appealed to the Government to force meat companies to include the phrase "with added water" on the labels of such products using letters no smaller than those used for the word "ham". It said that much of what is now described as "ham" is neither ham nor water.

"Places of meat which have been extensively tumbled in polyphosphate solution become integrated into a sticky mass, and the individual muscles are not so easily recognised as the committee went on. The result is a mass is then placed into moulds, plastic sleeves or cans and cooked or further processed. Perhaps, ministers should go further than the committee suggests and make companies label such products 'ham-like mass'."

Hugh Clayton

THEATRES

WESTMINSTER, S.W.1. 01-454 0248
RAGMAN
A NEW MUSICAL
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.
WINDMILL THEATRE, S.W.1. 01-454 0248
THE WINDMILL THEATRE
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.
YOUNG VIC 01-454 0248
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.
YOUNG VIC 01-454 0248
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.

CINEMAS

ARE 1 & 2 SHAPESBURY AVENUE, S.W.1. 01-454 0248
RAGMAN
A NEW MUSICAL
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.
WINDMILL THEATRE, S.W.1. 01-454 0248
THE WINDMILL THEATRE
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.
YOUNG VIC 01-454 0248
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.
YOUNG VIC 01-454 0248
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.

EXHIBITION

MIDDLESEX POLYTECHNIC GAT HILL
EXHIBITION CENTRE, LUTON, MK1 1LH
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.

ART GALLERIES

ANTHONY HOPKINSON, 10, Brixton Rd, S.W.15
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.
ANTHONY HOPKINSON, 10, Brixton Rd, S.W.15
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.

FINE ART SOCIETY

248 New Bond St, W.1. 01-454 0248
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.

MUSEUMS

MUSEUM OF LONDON, 6, Bloomsbury Sq, WC1
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Piccadilly, London, W.1.
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.

THEATRE

THEATRE, 10, Brixton Rd, S.W.15
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.

THEATRE

THEATRE, 10, Brixton Rd, S.W.15
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.


THEATRE

THEATRE, 10, Brixton Rd, S.W.15
MATINEE 2.00 PM. SATURDAY
NIGHT 8.00 PM. 10.00 PM.

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source and the income
A copy of the
list in respect
means, set out

Appeal Committee of the
of Lords (Lord Diplock,
of Salmon and Lord Scarman)
Justice Whitehouse (suing by
his own and next friend, Mrs.
Whitehouse) leave to appeal
from the majority decision of the
House and the Master of
the Rolls and Lord Justice Lawton,
in the *Times*, December 6, 1980.
The House is expected to give
judgment by a majority of
three to two in favour of the
claimant. Damages of £100,000
are sought.

Patrimonial reviews

On April 1, by way of experi-
ment, the Inland Revenue, the
Treasury has directed that
provisions for property
transfers and lump sums in will-
testamentary trusts shall be
subject to a special review at which
the Revenue will consider the
amount of settlement of the case
and the nature of the issues.
The procedure to be followed
will be to the application
to the High Court in support of the
claimant's application to the
Court of Appeal and any loans,
and other charges against the
estate and the income
of the estate. A copy of the
claimant's statement in respect
of the estate's means, set out

Law Report February 21 1980

Employment Appeal Tribunal

Police cadet can claim for unfair dismissal

Wiltshire Police Authority v Wynn

Before Mr Justice Phillips, Mr G. A. Jones and Mr P. Smith

A police cadet is an employee within the meaning of section 30(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, and can bring a complaint of unfair dismissal against a police authority. Police cadets are not in the police service and are not disqualified from being employees for that reason.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal dismissed an appeal by Wiltshire Police Authority from a decision of a Bristol Industrial Tribunal that the applicant, Miss Pamela Wynn, succeeded on the preliminary issue of law and was entitled to bring a complaint of unfair dismissal against the authority.

By section 30 (1) an "employee" means an individual who has entered into or works under a contract of employment, other than in police service.

Mr Eldred Tabachnik for the police authority; Mr T. R. A. Morrison, QC, for the applicant. MR JUSTICE PHILLIPS said that the police cadet was dismissed for allegedly disobeying an order. The power to appoint cadets was conferred by section 17 of the Police Act, 1964. They were appointed by the chief officer of police with a view to becoming members of his force; but they did not automatically become constables at the end of their training and had to apply with others who had not been cadets.

Mr Morrison, for the cadet, claimed that if the ordinary test to identify a contract of service were applied, she was an employee. He also relied on section 17 (2) of the Police Act which provided that the police authority should be treated for certain purposes as the employer of any police cadet undergoing training with that force.

A police cadet was paid a wage, taxed under Schedule E, and treated for the purposes of national insurance in a manner consistent with being employed. She could resign or be dismissed on two weeks' written notice. She could not engage in other employment.

Chancery Division

Wages of seconded employee deductible

Robinson (Inspector of Taxes) v Scott Bader Co Ltd

Before Mr Justice Walton.

A United Kingdom parent company seconded, at its own expense, one of its employees to work for an overseas subsidiary solely to further its European business, is entitled to deduct the expenditure from its profits for corporation tax purposes.

His Lordship, delivering a reserved judgment, dismissed an appeal by the Crown from a decision of the Warrington general commissioners that such expenditure by the taxpayer company, Scott Bader Co Ltd, was incurred by it "wholly and exclusively" for the purposes of its trade.

The taxpayer company manufactured and marketed chemical intermediates and synthetic resins. It had several subsidiary companies—one being a French company, Scott Bader Europe SA—which during the relevant period had been making losses and showed marked lack of success. At a meeting on July 17, 1975, the taxpayer company agreed to continue the European operations and give strong support to the French subsidiary. Accordingly, in 1975 the taxpayer company increased its shareholding in the subsidiary, thereby acquiring a 100 per cent interest in it, and seconded to it a Mr Fearon, one of its employees, as manager to provide the French company with the necessary technical and marketing skills. It continued to pay Mr Fearon's salary and met his expenses and social costs of living abroad.

The taxpayer company appealed against an assessment to corporation tax of £486,000 for its accounting period ended July 31, 1976, claiming a deduction of £16,354, the sum it had paid to Mr Fearon as wages and expenses. The commissioners upheld its claim, reducing the assessment, and the Crown appealed.

MR JUSTICE WALTON said that the case turned on the provision in section 130(a) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970, which prohibited the deduction of any disbursements "not being money wholly and exclusively laid out or expended for the purposes of the trade".

Decided cases established that where a parent company afforded financial assistance to a subsidiary three possible situations might arise: (1) that the parent was providing the assistance solely in the interests of the subsidiary; (2) that it provided the assistance partly in the subsidiary's interests and partly in its own; and (3) that it provided it solely in its own interests (see *Odham's Press Ltd v Cook* [1940] 3 All ER 151 and *Marshall Richards Machine Co Ltd v Jewitt* [1956] 36 TC 511).

Brain damaged child to appeal

The Appeal Committee of the House of Lords (Lord Diplock, Lord Salmon and Lord Scarman) gave Stuart Whitehouse (suing by his mother and next friend, Mrs Eileen Whitehouse) leave to appeal from the majority decision of the Court of Appeal (the Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice Donaldson dissenting) in *The Times*, December 1979, setting aside a judgment of Mr Justice Bush at Birmingham, awarding him damages of £100,000 for negligence against Mr Joseph Jordan, a consultant obstetrician.

The plaintiff, born in 1970, alleged that Mr Jordan in delivering him at birth had pulled too long and too hard with forceps, resulting in severe brain damage to him so that he is now a helpless cripple in need of constant care and attention. The majority Court of Appeal held that, even accepting the judge's view that Mr Jordan had pulled too hard and too long, that was at worst an error of judgment, which was not the same thing as negligence.

Pre-trial reviews

From April 1, by way of experiment in the Divorce Registry, the Senior Registrar has directed that all applications for property adjustments and lump sums will include a pre-trial review at which the registrar will consider the possibility of settlement of the case or clarification of the issues.

without consent, could earn overtime and was subject to the Police Act and Regulations, 1965, regarding leave, sick leave, pay, allowances and similar matters. The object of cadetship was to provide training that would produce constables. The training lasted two years, the second phase of which was devoted to practical work, mainly in headquarters and police stations.

Training opportunities open to persons between 16 and 18 as cadets was out of the ordinary in range. They were paid and were liable to be dismissed. Other students paid to be taught; an apprentice could not be dismissed nor could he readily resign.

The marks of a contract of service were set out in *Ready Mixed Concrete (South East) Ltd v Minister of Pensions and National Insurance* [1968] 2 QB 497 and other cases. The Appeal Tribunal's preliminary view had been that there were sufficient marks of a contract of service in a police cadet's terms of engagement to constitute an arrangement to provide teaching and learning. To an extent that was true. Certainly in the present case the choice was not between employee and independent contractor but between employee and pupil. But a pupil could be an employee as in the case of a student nurse or a trainee in industry. Mr Tabachnik stressed that the training was not intended to be vocational and was of a general character. But in the second phase of training a pupil was mainly engaged on work which if she did not do, another employee would have to.

The Appeal Tribunal still adhered to the view that Miss Wynn was employed by the police authority.

Section 17 of the Police Act supported that conclusion but was not necessary to the decision. The appeal would be dismissed. The case would be heard by an industrial tribunal on the merits. Solicitors: Mr D. W. L. Butler, Trowbridge; Russell Jones and Walker.

The clear taxation implication was that in cases (1) and (2) the parent company could not deduct the expenditure whereas in (3) it could do so. However, even if the expenditure was incurred by the parent solely in its own interests, it would, of necessity, benefit to some extent the subsidiary. That was virtually inevitable. How, then, was the distinction between cases (2) and (3) to be made since the wholly objective situation was basically the same—namely benefit to each?

The answer was to be found in the judgment of Lord Justice Bore in *Bendish, Stokes & Lomas v Berson* [1952] 2 All ER 82, 84-87. From that it was clear that the mere fact that the subsidiary received a benefit was not a test for the present purpose if the object of the expenditure was the exclusive benefit of the parent. It followed from that judgment that (1) the test was a subjective, not an objective one, i.e., the relevant question was what was the object of the person making the disbursement and not what was the effect of the disbursement when made; and (2) that in all cases that was a pure question of fact.

In the present case the commissioners had allowed the taxpayer company's appeal and had made the primary finding of fact that the subsidiary's position vis-à-vis the taxpayer company was that the rescue operation being undertaken to further the taxpayer company's business in France and in Europe. Accordingly, they found as a fact that the object of the expenditure on Mr Fearon's wages was to further the taxpayer company's business in France and not that of the subsidiary.

Therefore it appeared that the commissioners came to a conclusion from which the court was not at liberty to depart. Even if it had been, his Lordship did not think it would be proper to do so.

An alternative submission had been made by the Crown that the expenditure was not a permissible deduction as it was a capital sum and expressly prohibited by Section 130(f). Such a submission was wholly unsustainable. What the taxpayer company had done was to make a present of Mr Fearon's services to its French subsidiary and do that it had had to pay his wages. It was difficult to imagine anything less like a capital sum being paid.

The appeal was dismissed with costs.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Jaques & Co.

Quantity Surveyors

Abu Dhabi

- Bachelor basis with messing, medical services, laundry and accommodation provided by the company.
- U.K. paid leave of three weeks after each period of fourteen weeks on site, with return air fare to London provided by the company.
- Tax-free monthly salaries of up to £1,500 (Team Leader), £1,000 (Senior Q.S.) and £800 (Junior Q.S.).
- Twelve months renewable contracts.

Application forms are available by calling Miss MacQueen on 01-352 8068, and should be returned not later than March 10, 1980. Interviews will be held in London during March and selected candidates should be available to commence as soon as possible.

Manager — Financial Accounting Manager — Cost Accounting

Our Client is a substantial manufacturing Organisation located in the Republic of Ireland, engaged in multi-product manufacture for export markets. Growth now necessitates the creation of two senior positions in the Financial Department.

Manager — Financial Accounting
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How much longer can President Carter stay in the White House rose garden

He could come out once the hostages are freed and election issues get closer to home



John Anderson, President Carter and George Bush: from foreign to domestic policy.

The United States is suffering from war hysteria. I was repeatedly told during these weeks travelling in different parts of the country. With one undistinguished exception, however, none of my informants could possibly be described as a victim of the ailment. I was always other people elsewhere who were supposed to be in this condition, and after a while I concluded that something very different was occurring.

A serious debate on American foreign policy is taking place that is far removed from the mood in the Vietnam war days. Then there was a fierce and emotional conflict between the hawk and the doves. Now there is a sober examination of what course the United States ought to pursue in international affairs. That was evident in many private conversations and in much that has appeared in the press.

The combined effect of Iran and Afghanistan has been to shake Americans out of the passivity that characterized their approach to international affairs after Vietnam. There is a new determination, but it should not be mistaken for a new jingoism or even a new certainty.

This has important implications for the presidential election. The immediate effect of the crises was to rally opinion behind the President, and the trend has been strengthened by the general belief that he has handled them well. So long as the national instinct is to close ranks behind him, Mr Carter cannot be beaten.

But for how long can foreign affairs drive other issues off the political agenda when the public mood is not frantically pro-Carter? Mr Carter will do what he can to keep them at the top for as long as possible. His handling of the Iranian and Afghan crises has shown serious political calculation, far more than a mere showmanship. By conducting his election campaign from the

White House rose garden he has managed to appear more presidential than ever before and to emphasize the special advantage of the incumbent. Nor has he allowed his involvement with international questions to preclude intense political activity on the telephone.

The Carter campaign is well organized and knows its strengths. When I asked one Carter organizer how long the rose garden campaign would continue he replied, "for as long as possible".

Yet there are signs that economic questions are once again forcing their way up the public's list of political priorities. Once the hostages are released, foreign policy is likely to become no more than one among the principles issues through far more important than it was a few months ago. This will leave Mr Carter with a very

good chance of reelection, but not invulnerable. Wherever I went I found widespread support for him, but little positive enthusiasm.

I do not believe that he can be defeated on foreign policy. But he might be beaten by someone who can neutralize his advantage on foreign policy and defeat him on economic issues where there is much dissatisfaction over inflation.

This is a task that should be easier for a Republican than a Democratic challenger, simply because of the timescale. There will be eight Democratic primaries in the next month, including one in the important state of Illinois. It will therefore not be time for a Democrat to play a waiting game.

Senator Edward Kennedy has consequently been induced to attack the President's interna-

tional policy directly, alleging that he brought the trouble on himself by permitting the Shah to have medical treatment on American soil. But the political weakness of that approach is that, even if Mr Kennedy's analysis is correct, it can so easily be misinterpreted as justifying the Iranian seizure of the hostages.

The Republicans, however, do not have to engage Mr Carter, or whoever may be the Democratic nominee, in open combat for some months. They have time to allow the debate on international policy to cool a bit, though it will still be necessary to convince the voters that he could handle a foreign crisis as capably as Mr Carter.

Thus should be sought for Mr George Bush among those Republican hopefuls who stand a serious chance of the nomina-

tion because he is the one with the most experience in the international field. He may not have had the opportunity to be more than a capable functionary as head of the United States diplomatic mission to China or as Ambassador to the United Nations, but he has won much approval from those who served with him when he was director of the Central Intelligence Agency at a difficult time in 1976-77.

There has been some speculation that his election would bring the return of Dr Kissinger as Secretary of State. But that is most unlikely.

Mr Bush has the advantage over Mr Ronald Reagan in seeming more moderate and undoubtedly being more youthful.

Over Senator Ross Perot, Mr Bush has the advantage of organization. Senator Baker's inability to assemble an effective cam-

paign team has not only crippled his effort to get the nomination but has raised a serious question mark over his capacity to govern capably if he were President. To be a successful President it is necessary to control an impressive operation from the White House, not just to be personally competent in dealing with problems and people.

But if Mr Bush looks in good prospect for the Republican nomination, does he have the flair to defeat a sitting President? He is not so much at ease with economic matters as with foreign policy, and his personality is reassuring rather than exciting.

The one candidate to have aroused genuine excitement in Congressman John Anderson of Illinois. On foreign affairs, Mr Anderson is a strong contender for the nomination, but he is the one candidate who has appeared to be speaking his mind not just playing politics. He is far too liberal to have any chance of the nomination, but that is just what is required to attract the independents and Democrats whom any Republican candidate must win over to stand a chance of victory.

He would be the best vice-presidential candidate, balancing Mr Bush geographically and ideologically—and being himself of presidential calibre. The chances may not be high. He has said that he does not want the job; the party regulars would want him, and he has made some curious remarks about Mr Bush. Only if Mr Bush wins the nomination with sufficient ease not to have to do any deals with the right wing would there be any chance of such a choice.

He would have to assert himself to make it, which in turn would make him look more decisive as a leader. If there is a serious prospect of defeating Mr Carter, a Bush-Anderson ticket would seem the best chance of doing it.

Geoffrey Smith

A reply to Ronald Butt's criticism of sex education in schools

What every child should know

Last week (February 14) Ronald Butt accused those involved in sex education, and particularly the Family Planning Association, of leading to "a dangerous operation from the White House, not just to be personally competent in dealing with problems and people."

The FPA has always believed that parents should be the first source of advice and example, and should provide their children with guidance and information. But all too often parents feel that sex is too personal and private an area of life to discuss with their children. They may have no moral or ethical objection to their children learning about sex, indeed they usually see the need—the problem can be simply adult embarrassment.

The FPA believes that education in human sexuality is essential if young people are to make responsible decisions. We share this view with the World Health Organization which in its recent survey of sex education in Europe further stated that one of the purposes of sex education is to give "freedom from sentimental fears, myths, and false beliefs and other psychological factors inhibiting sexual response and sexual relationship."

Much of the criticism of sex education is based on the false premise that if teenagers are not told about sex, they will remain "innocent" and unaware of their own sexuality. But their very bodies force sexual awareness upon them, and if information is not given by those who are concerned with the young person's welfare (be they parents or teachers) they will find out through the inaccurate and misleading medium of "dirty" jokes, through the half-truths presented by the media, and by experimentation.

Christine Farrell's massive survey of 1,500 16 to 19-year-olds, "My mother said—the way young people learned about sex and birth control" (1978), shows that those who learned about sex from reliable sources—parents or teachers—were less likely to rush into early sexual experience. Those who learned about sex from friends were most likely to be sexually experienced, the next most likely to be sexually experienced were those who learned about sex from parents and the least likely were those who had learned about sex in school.

Christine Farrell interviewed 300 sets of parents. Over half of these felt that the best way for young people to learn about sex was from teachers at school. But only 23 per cent of the teenagers in this sample expressed any satisfaction with the way they learned about sex—the remainder, while wanting and needing information, were left confused and vulnerable.

The FPA, too, is in support of the view that parents have a right to know what their children are being taught. Not only do they have a right, they have a duty to find out, particularly those who feel it is impossible to take responsibility for sex education themselves. It is a pity that more parents are not closely involved with the schools on this issue—the Department of Education and Science in its Green Paper, Education in Schools (1977) stresses the importance of this: "Schools should cooperate with parents in preparing young people for the adult world."

The FPA has also worked with parents, running courses in what to tell their children. It is not our policy to tell their children about sex, but to help them to make their own choices.

Roger Berthoud

We should try to encourage the development of a positive morality.

In Farrell's study 55 per cent of sexually active teenagers admitted that they did not always use birth control—contributing to the statistics showing that in 1978 there were 4,600 pregnancies to girls under 16, with 3,300 of these pregnancies ending in abortion. Many of these young people never received any help or advice about sex or contraception, and might have rushed into sex unsure of both the consequences and of whether they really wanted a sexual relationship. Rather than concentrating on negative moral codes like "thou shalt not", we should try to encourage the development of a positive morality.

It is all very well to talk about "moral standards", and how others are sexually responsible, but young people should be helped to make their own choices. However, Ronald Butt and those sharing his opinion would do well to remember the view that has been spelled out again and again in the literature, and also in the philosophy of Christianity—that individuals can only reach their full potential if they are able to choose how life is best lived, in freedom and with responsibility, on the basis of full knowledge. We do need service to the young in helping them that information and that choice.

Barbara Davis

The author is chairman of the Family Planning Association.

The giants who linger on

November 3, but was kept alive in a vegetable state so the Government could sign a pact ceding the Spanish Sahara to Morocco and Mauritania before he died. That was done on November 14, and only on November 20 was it announced that he was dead.

There were a number of protests, not least in *The Times*, about the manner in which he had been kept alive by some 19 surgeons and physicians. But in retrospect, the political arguments for such action seem cogent.

The demise of the other Iberian dictator, Dr Salazar of Portugal, was in some ways even more pathetic. In August, 1958, at the age of 79 and when he had been in power 36 years, a doctor called under him and the right side of his head hit the ground. The resulting blood clot was operated on, but soon afterwards he suffered a serious stroke.

He appeared to be dying, and on September 26 he was succeeded as prime minister by Dr Marcello Caetano. But Dr Salazar would not give up. Paralyzed and half blind, he went home in February, 1969, and in April, on his 80th birthday, was even able to broadcast his thanks to the Portuguese for their affection and interest in his health.

According to some reports, he still believed he was in charge. Only in July 1970, when he was 81, did he develop the kidney infection from which he soon died.

Tragically prolonged though the passing of Sir Winston Churchill may have been, that was perhaps an instance of justice to the nation to adjust to the impending loss of a great hero.

Sir Winston had resigned as prime minister on April 5, 1955, after being progressively incapacitated over the years by a series of strokes. For his last 10 years, to quote his doctor Lord Moran's rather ghoulish prose, "he watched helplessly and in despair the creeping paralysis of his faculties".

On January 10 (according to Lord Moran), he had another stroke, and Moran could not feel any pulse. For the next 14 days, Moran wrote, Sir Winston was not seen to move. The world waited, and only on January 24, 1965, did he finally yield up his great spirit.

Dr Adenauer, founding father of West Germany, who died in April 1967 aged 91, was a great deal luckier. Only two months before he died, he was fit enough to tell an American interviewer he thought the British were adhering to an easy way of life acquired in colonial days. Eventually the man who had so reluctantly stood down as chancellor four years earlier succumbed fairly rapidly to complications resulting from bronchitis and influenza.

President Pompidou, by contrast—the Soviet leader Mr Brezhnev seems to be a comparable case—began to lose his grip on detail and was thought to be suffering from some serious disease a good year before he died in office on April 2, 1974. His appearance was altered by the severe treatment he received and he became progressively more easily tired and irritable. In his last days he suffered great pain with a courage which moved even his political opponents.

Two of America's greatest Presidents, Woodrow Wilson and F.D. Roosevelt, were stricken by serious illness while in office, the case of Woodrow Wilson being particularly sad.

The former president of Princeton did not have a politician's constitution or

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Roosevelt (centre) with Churchill and Stalin at Yalta in 1945: a dying man helping to recast the map of Europe.

SALISBURY DIARY

The world returns to Meikles

A classic remark about Salisbury, capital of, successively, Southern Rhodesia, the Central African Federation, Rhodesia, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, now (again) Rhodesia and at the time of UDI by Mr Larry Fellows of *The New York Times*, has at last been rendered null and void.

The American was sitting in Meikles hotel in the heart of the city when a wide-eyed young Rhodesian asked him what he thought of Salisbury. He replied, "It's okay, I guess—but it's too far from town."

Larry himself was modest enough not to recall making this memorable wisecrack when he was in the city elsewhere years later, but I am sure he would not say it now. At that time, Rhodesia was busy parting company with the rest of the world.

Today we are witnessing its return to the fold, and the capital of Zimbabwe-in-waiting is almost reeking with shock.

The hotels are bursting at the seams. Car-hire firms cannot cope with demand. Air

charter companies cannot turn their aircraft round fast enough. British Airways jumbo jets and RAF VC-10s united officials, observers, interested foreigners, diplomats, businessmen and journalists by the hundred.

There is an easy way to recognize a reporter, even if he is not wearing the little yellow press pass issued for the elections. He is the man behaving like a card-sharp, trying a key in the doors of several identical rented white Datsuns before he finds the right one.

There are about 500 press and broadcasting people here, and the temporary colonial administration, the Rhodesians and the nine contending political parties are straining every sinew to step up the already phenomenal output of press conferences, briefings and facilities.

Last week the following items were all on offer at 5.30 pm on the same day: Mr Ian Smith's last election address, a press conference given by Mr Robert Mugabe, Leader of the Zanu (PF) party, another by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the outgoing prime minister and leader of UANC, and the daily briefing by the spokesman for the Governor, Lord Soames.

Salisbury is not so small that one can be in four places at once. How one overcomes such difficulties must remain a trade

secret. But the main difference between Salisbury as I last knew it eight years ago and as it is now finds the difference between sleeping and waking. Apprehension and excitement about the immediate future and the knowledge that the city is at the centre of the world political stage have transformed it out of all recognition.

I can report that it is still possible to meet a truly Christian gentleman. Denied access to the Times office one day last week by a prolonged home scare and preoccupied by election times, I withdrew to one of the bars in Meikles and started to write my copy in longhand. As I wrote for thought, I ordered a whisky on my table, passed the whisky over and jackets could not be served after 6 pm there, which is pretty silly in this climate.

The man at the next table, suitably attired for the colonies, ordered a large whisky and a Coca Cola and was duly served. Without a word, he put the whisky on my table, passed the ice bucket and refused my offer to reimburse him. When I reached the end of page two, he did it again, once more refusing payment. All I gleaned from him was that he had just arrived from Britain. My home now rests on finding him again and

repaying him in kind. Inspired in several ways, the copy flowed freely and eventually reached London in legible condition. A generous act of simple humanity not to be forgotten.

Bedroom farce

Meikles hotel used to be one of the finest relics of British imperialism, not so famous perhaps as Shepheard's in Cairo or the Raffles in Singapore, but still one of the great hotels. As I found when I stayed there for a few days after my arrival, the standards of service remain generally fabulous with the cuisine not far behind. The by European standards low wages paid to the large staff obviously help, but the real secret is excellent organization.

But as I found when I was abruptly ordered out of the place without warning because of heavy overbooking, the management seem to exhibit signs of strain.

A vast new block trebling the accommodation is all but complete but will not be opened until Easter. This seems decidedly odd as by then Zimbabwe will know its fate and most of the interlopers will have gone.

Fortunately I already had alternative accommodation in reserve, but a British photographer who had firmly booked through to mid-March was also

ordered out of his room for the same reason on the same day. Happily another colleague who had taken three rooms but only needed two offered him the spare.

In my innocence I used to think that hotels worked on the

basis of first come, first served and were quite happy so long as they were paid and the guests behaved himself.

From time to time another sign of stress appears at the main entrance which says: "The right of admission is reserved. Positively no guests wearing jeans, T-shirts, shorts, open shoes, overalls are allowed to enter the hotel after 4.30 pm."

Unfortunately for the management in sartorial terms, though I would guess fortunately in financial, the Anglo-Rhodesian official press centre for the elections occupies most of the first floor, and the press corps has duly driven a whole convoy of white Datsuns through these anachronistic restrictions.

The idea of the northern European, accustomed at this time of year to temperatures 50 degrees Fahrenheit lower, ducking from a furry into the sweltering bush to catch the daily briefing and peering on the doorstep in don jacket and tie to the construction of the new accommodation block, no doubt for the best of commercial reasons, necessitated the

demolition of the old Meikles building which was one of the finest examples anywhere of the late-century colonial architecture.

The old structure occupied three sides of an entire city block, only one storey high, it had a splendid colonnade all round it on the street side and within there were tall, cool rooms with gently creaking wooden floors.

Since I was last here, a surprising number of important, or at least big, new buildings have gone up, some of them notwithstanding, and there is a new pedestrian precinct. It hardly compares, of course, with the London property boom of recent years, but for Salisbury it is amazing.

Fair and free

In the end we are here for the serious purpose of witnessing the most important election in Southern Africa since 1948, when the Afrikaner Nationalist won power in South Africa. The promise that it would be "fair and free" may prove to be an unfortunate choice of phrase (which is not to say that they are not trying).

Even though Lord Carrington's temporary remark that most of the Afrikaner Nationalist's conduct of the election "would not know a free and

fair election if they saw one" is entirely fair comment, a more appropriate phrase to describe the electoral process here would be "rough and ready".

It is being done after seven years of bitter guerrilla warfare, damped but not extinguished by the ceasefire. It is being done in great haste. The entire future of seven million Africans is at stake and they know it. The choices to be made next week have an importance long since vanished from the emotions aroused are commensurate.

"Intimidation" may well be rife but the word has become debased. A magistrate here described the tearing down of a party poster as "intimidation" (fine: 20 dollars or £15.50). This is the last just but two of Mr Harold Macmillan's wind of change, and high winds tend to cause damage.

The election is by universal adult suffrage, starting at eight. The party has been barred. The majority of African rule. In these terms, it may be rough and ready rather than fair and free, but, for the moment, the Government does not go to far in issuing orders, it is broadly and fundamentally, if perhaps crudely, democratic.

Dan van der Vast

Home co-ownership

Mr Stephen Edell is writing in response to Mr (February 19) from Mr Davies, the Chairman of the Law Society's Family Law Committee, who has introduced the Matrimonial (Co-ownership) Bill, which is now in the House of Lords on February 19.

This Bill was one of the recommendations of the Law Commission's Report on Family Law, No. 85. My purpose is to explain some of the recommendations which have been made.

We welcome the statement that the Law Society has introduced the principle of matrimonial home co-ownership. It is a principle which has been in the minds of many for some time.

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THE DANGEROUS LAST STAGES

The Ministry of Defence is right to make plans for the withdrawal of the British and Commonwealth monitoring force upon the completion of the election process. Any such plan must contain contingency provisions against untoward events which might imperil any units of that body between now and the completion of the election. We are, however, now close to the last stages of the operation to which all parties agreed at Lancaster House, and it is advisable to take a careful look at the timetable and its relationship to the role of the monitors.

It sounds as though the Ministry of Defence considers that this role is completed when the last vote has been deposited in the ballot boxes, and these are on their way to be counted under conditions in which nobody can suggest tampering took place—the such in the official view, of a free and fair election. But it would seem that the role of the monitoring force is to monitor the cease-fire, and this cannot come to an end until the result has been declared and the new constitutional government is installed, at which point the British flag is lowered and monitoring is irrelevant.

Polling ends on February 29 and the results are expected three days later, a point at which the cease-fire, strictly speaking, is still in operation. The moment of great danger will in fact be when the election results are declared, for it is then that those who are disappointed may declare that the election has been manifestly shown not to have been free or fair, and to reflect the result—and the ensuing process of government-making by Lord Soames. It is then that the guerrillas, or the forces of any party, might take to the

bush, possibly with Commonwealth hostages, or possibly attacking the isolated Commonwealth contingents in their camps.

The first imperative is that the party leaders should publicly accept in advance the results of the elections, however unwelcome and however indicative of the efficacy of the brutal intimidation which is now endemic. This should keep their forces peaceful at declaration of the poll, though there can be no certainty of this. It should, nonetheless, reduce the risk to the monitors. The sooner Lord Soames can get this assurance the better, and if he does not get it, then the greater the relevance of the contingency plans to rescue monitoring units in vulnerable positions.

The presence of the monitors during the period subsequent to the poll itself is important, quite apart from the fact that it seems to be a condition to which Britain has subscribed. For the monitors at a tense moment; they will strengthen the presumption that a transition is taking place from a truce to a full-blown peace settlement.

The uncertainties of the situation grow after the results are declared, even if the leaders have been induced to accept them in advance. If Mr Mugabe's Zanu-PF party gets 51 of the 100 assembly seats, he would have to be asked to form a government. Indeed he may well have to be asked to try to form one if he gets a majority of the 80 black seats. The dangers increase if, even though his party is the largest black party in the assembly, the Governor's soundings show that all the other parties want Mr Nkomo as prime minister, and are prepared to keep him in office, and to

relegate Mr Mugabe to opposition. Adherence to parliamentary rules would require Lord Soames to accept that outcome, even if it risked repudiation by Mr Mugabe's men and a resumption of hostilities. However, he would no doubt urge upon all the parties the advisability of trying to form a "national" government to obviate such a risk.

During cabinet-making, the monitors can begin to withdraw. They are not in Rhodesia to become involved in any renewed civil war. Nor has Britain any responsibility to be drawn in, on a plea of supporting the majority coalition in the assembly. If the conditions for the abrogation of Britain's nominal and temporary sovereignty are broken it should be open to Britain to abrogate that responsibility unilaterally and to withdraw, leaving the country to settle its affairs by force of arms if that decision is made despite the elections. The monitors are neutrals now, and whatever government emerges in Salisbury, must remain so. For Britain to abandon the position of referee, and participate in the commencement of what may well be a prolonged period of tribal or other struggles for power would be wrong, damaging to us, but also dangerous for Rhodesia.

The British and Commonwealth troops are at risk. They know it, and they honourably volunteered to take those risks. But the risks they run now and in future have been there from the start: the cease-fire could have broken down at any time. With good management it will not break and the poll, however flawed, will take place. It will be Lord Soames' final task to preside over the last stage of the election process in Salisbury as to produce the most stable result he can.

TELEVISION AND THE MOSCOW OLYMPICS

It is the Government's hope and intention that Britain should not be represented in the Moscow Olympic Games this summer. That is an entirely justifiable response to the Soviet action in Afghanistan. But there are certain measures which it would not be justifiable for the Government to take in support of that response. Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has said that the Government is considering whether to give official advice to the BBC and ITV on whether to cover the games, and the BBC has indicated that if such advice were offered it would be considered very carefully.

As host nation the Soviet Union will presumably control the filming of the games. That is the customary practice which normally works well enough. But the Government is understandably worried that the Soviet authorities will exercise their prerogative in such a way as to secure a bogus diplomatic triumph. "The prospect of a march-past of athletes giving an 'eyes-right' to President Brezhnev would", Mr Hurd told the House of Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, "be an intolerable signal sent across

the world." That is a powerful argument against the athletes going to Moscow. Their presence would be used for propaganda purposes to give the impression that international opinion was not offended by the invasion of Afghanistan. But what ought the broadcasting authorities, and newspapers for that matter, to do in the games do proceed as scheduled?

The first principle is that it should be for the broadcasters and the newspapers themselves to take this decision. In a free society it is not for governments to tell them what they may or may not report in order to suit a political purpose, no matter how admirable that purpose may be. The Government should leave the decision to the broadcasters because one of the essential distinctions between a free country and the Soviet Union is that where there is freedom a government's wish can be ignored even when it is right.

What then should the broadcasters do? They should base their decision on accepted broadcasting values, which means that they should judge according to the importance of the occasion and the interest in it. If the Olympics are widely boycotted, then they will be of little sporting value and the interest in them will be minimal. If British

athletes do not take part then British interest will be substantially reduced. This is what one hopes will happen. But it is always a mistake for broadcasters or newspapers to behave as if something disagreeable has not occurred just because they do not want it to happen. If the Moscow Olympics do take place in recognisable form then it would be wrong for the broadcasting authorities to ignore them, whether advised to do so or not.

They would have a particular obligation, however, to ensure that their coverage was not politically naive. If at all possible they should see that the filming is not left in the hands of the Soviet Union. If no other arrangement is practicable then they should make certain that the commentators correct any political bias in the filming, either in what is shown or in what is excluded from the screen. This is a difficulty that newspapers would not face, but it should not present too daunting a challenge to television and radio broadcasters. The best outcome would be an effective boycott that killed the games. If it is not, the Government should have the courage of a free country's principles. A free country cannot hypocritically event by boycotting the reporting of it.

Home co-ownership

From Mr Stephen Edell
Sir, In writing in response to the letter (February 19) from Mr G. R. Davies, the Chairman of the Law Society's Family Law Sub-Committee, on the Matrimonial Homes (Co-ownership) Bill, which received its Second Reading in the House on February 12.

This Bill was one of those appended to the Law Commission's Third Report on Family Property (Law Com. No. 86). My purpose in writing is to explain some of the reasons which prompted us to make the recommendations which Mr Davies discusses.

We welcome the statements by Mr Davies that the Law Society is not opposed to the principle that the matrimonial home should be owned jointly by husband and wife and that his sub-committee sympathises with the objects of the Bill. However, he goes on to suggest that the Bill would not increase the incidence of co-ownership because "those spouses who choose to do so, making use of the escape provisions in the Bill."

We do not accept this. In most cases the only "escape provision" available will be that which permits husbands and wives to agree that their home shall not be jointly owned. This means that where the parties give no thought to co-ownership, or one of them is unwilling to include it, they will jointly own the property.

We therefore believe that the Bill will produce justice in a large number of cases where it would not otherwise be achieved. We also believe that one of the Bill's main functions is to establish that co-ownership is the "norm" and to influence more spouses to provide for it expressly.

control dispositions of the home. These powers can be protected by registration which would effectively prevent any surreptitious sale.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN EDELL,
Law Commissioner,
Conquest House,
37-38 John Street, WC1,
February 20.

Cause for consideration

From Lord Walton
Sir, There is all the difference in the world between Marxism and Russian imperialism. Anyone who doubts this should look at Yugoslavia.

Although a Marxist state it is today a leader of the non-aligned countries, and a bulwark against Russian expansion in Europe.

That this is so is in large measure due to the wisdom and courage of Churchill and those who led our mission to Tito during the war.

In spite of his being a Marxist and a guerrilla leader, we supported his cause.

Twenty years later the Americans showed less wisdom. They opposed Castro in Cuba, and drove him into the arms of Russia. Today they have a potential Soviet base on their doorstep.

If Mugabe, a Marxist (though also a Christian), a friend of China but not of Russia, is elected leader of Zimbabwe, could he become either a Tito or Castro?

Which course he chooses will depend largely on our behaviour in the immediate future. I hope our present government will show the wisdom and courage of Churchill.

Yours truly,
WALSTON,
Town's End Springs,
Thriplow,
Cambridge,
February 19.

Soviet dissidents

From Mr Mark Bonham Carter and others
Sir, We write to express our deep disquiet at the Soviet authorities' current campaign to suppress all forms of dissent. The human rights movement, in particular, is now coming under such pressure that remarkable samizdat publications like *The Chronicle of Current Events* (published in English by Amnesty International) might temporarily be forced to close down.

We would like to place on record our profound respect for the self-sacrificing work of the banished Dr Sakharov and his arrested (and charged) friends, whose number grows daily: Tatyana Velikanova, Gleb Yakunin, Vyacheslav Bakhtin, Antonina Felekaia, Dmitry Dudko, Boris Kadiyev, Victor Solovko, Yuriy Grinn, Valery Abramkin, and many, many others.

We will do everything we can to support these noble people through their imprisonment, and also to obtain their release. By persecuting them the Soviet regime is creating martyrs and aggravating the serious social ills which they have drawn attention to with such courage and moderation.

Yours faithfully,
MARK BONHAM CARTER,
DAN JACOBSON,
TOM STOPPARD,
MICHAEL SCAMMELL,
STUART HAMPSHIRE,
DAVID ASTOR,
ROLAND PENROSE,
JOHN SHEFF,
JIM ROSE,
EDWARD CRANKSHAW,
c/o Writers and Scholars International,
21 Russell Street, WC2,
February 14.

Rugby violence

From Mr P. H. Leacock
Sir, After seeing the all too frequent acts of shuggery that marred the England and Wales game on Saturday, I am sure that school teachers must be questioning whether children should be encouraged to take up the game of rugby.

The only redeeming feature of the march was the brave refereeing of Mr Burnett.

Yet the authorities at all levels and some at least of the journalists involved in the game will, I fear, continue to gloss over the appalling aspects of the modern game that are all too plain to see.

Unfortunately the game itself may suffer serious injury which no amount of "stitches" will be capable of healing.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP H. LEACOCK,
163 Compton Lane,
Horsham,
Sussex,
February 16.

'Objective test' in union legislation

From Mr John Melville Williams, QC

Sir, Because of my involvement in the recent cases of *Express Newspapers v MacShane* and *Dupont Steels v Sims*, I have so far refrained from joining your correspondence on trade unions and the law but the observations on the House of Lords judgments in your first leader yesterday (February 20) cannot pass uncorrected.

You refer to Mr Prior's proposals correcting parts of the House of Lords judgments which "made new law" and restoring "an objective test". You state that the House of Lords was "under no obligation to adopt the purely subjective test" and "left the law unclear" on the question of so-called political disputes and finally that "The House of Lords was setting aside the general trend of past judicial interpretation including their own."

The House of Lords obligation was to construe the phrase "an act done by a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute". This they did in accordance with its natural or ordinary meaning; the question simply put, is, why was the act done, not did it or could it further the trade dispute?

The only previous occasion that this had been specifically considered by the House was in *Conway v Wade* (1959 AC 506) and of that judgment, far from being against the trend of the judgments in that case, were entirely consistent with them.

A few examples will show this: thus Lord Atkinson said at page 517 "the statute is designed to protect acts in the nature of aid assistance help and encouragement rendered to the disputants" and Lord Shaw of Dufferine at page 522 said "the act must be done in the course of it [the dispute] and for the purpose of promoting the interests of either party or both parties to it."

In particular the Lord Chancellor Lord Loreburn made it clear that the 1906 Act could apply to "secondary" actions (page 511) and in the following passage at page 512 he plainly contemplated industrial action spreading far beyond those immediately involved:

"I regard it as the section cannot fairly be confined to an act done by a party to the dispute. A dispute may have arisen, for example, in a single colliery, of which the subject is so important to the whole industry that either employers or workmen may think a general lock-out or a general

strike is necessary to gain their point. Few are parties to, but all are interested in, the dispute."

That the new law has not been introduced by the House of Lords is also confirmed by Professor Goodhart's famous article published in 1972 on the *Legality of the General Strike*. The objective test which you suggest should be "restored" was not one test but a number of tests propounded by the Court of Appeal in a succession of cases between *Beaverbrook v Keys* in 1917 and *Associated Newspapers v Wade* in 1979.

The expression "political strike" has itself been criticized by the Court of Appeal as one of the use of which obscures rather than illuminates and the reiteration of such slogans cannot help in the proper reconciliation of the genuine interests of different sections of the community.

While it is legitimate for *The Times* to advocate changes in the law it is not legitimate to do so to distort history and so seek to discredit the House of Lords. The interests of the community in this field are better served by dispassionate analysis, objectivity and serious argument.

There are two other matters considered by the House of Lords in the recent cases which have received far too little attention from yourselves and other commentators. First in *MacShane* Lord Scarman observed that "it would be a strange and embarrassing task for a judge to be called upon to review the tactics of a party to a trade dispute and to determine whether the employee was likely to further or advance that party's side of the dispute" and that the difficulties which had beset the Court of Appeal were "a persuasive argument for keeping this act of judgment in the industrial arena and out of the judicial forum."

Secondly, Lord Diplock in the steel case remarked on the danger to public confidence in the political impartiality of the judiciary if judges under the guise of interpretation amendments to statutes to avoid a consequence they regard as contrary to the public interest.

That danger is all the more real if the Court becomes as they are bound to do under Mr Prior's proposals, in Lord Scarman's phrase, "some sort of a backseat driver in trade disputes."

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MELVILLE WILLIAMS,
15 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
February 21.

Paying to go to school

From Mr James F. Paussey, MP for Erewash (Conservative) and Mr Roger Moate, MP for Faversham (Conservative)

Sir, On February 13, a large number of Conservative MPs voted against the Government or abstained, on the question of school transport charges. The vote had to take place on a amendment which went further than many other members wanted.

For that and other reasons, it is reasonable to conclude that many more Conservative members and supporters will be willing or able to dissent in the division lobby share the same concern over the manner in which education authorities may utilise this power.

That being so, we hope that the Government will think about their proposals before the Education No. 2 Bill reaches the House of Lords. Failing that we hope that their leadership, when deciding this issue, will give full recognition to the immense amount of concern that is only partly revealed by the voting figures.

Whilst there are differences of view about whether low and limited charges are acceptable or whether existing free provision should continue, there is no doubt that the proposals before the Education No. 2 Bill reached the House of Lords. Failing that we hope that their leadership, when deciding this issue, will give full recognition to the immense amount of concern that is only partly revealed by the voting figures.

Serious damage could be inflicted upon many denominational schools with large catchment areas and

upon rural areas. Freedom of choice which, in other respects, the Bill seeks to enhance would, in practice, for many families, be reduced.

There is still time to put this right.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES F. PAUSSEY,
ROGER MOATE,
House of Commons.

From the Sheriff of Oxford

Sir, There is widespread relief in many parts of the county, and particularly in the city of Oxford, at the fact that the Government has introduced a clause in the new Education Bill giving objects to nursery school closures the right of appeal to the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

As a result Oxfordshire County Council will be abandoning its plan to close all its nursery schools and nursery classes. Those of us who opposed the closures were very glad to think that public pressure has resulted in the safeguarding of nursery schools throughout the country.

We regard the Government's decision as a judgment of Solomon.

This does not mean that there is no room for new forms of nursery provision in the future; but these, I hope, will be grafted on to the traditional provision in a spirit of equity instead of supplanting it in an atmosphere of outrage.

Yours faithfully,
JANET TODD,
Town Hall,
Oxford,
February 14.

Help for council tenants

From Mr Edward Ward
Sir, My morning post as the Chief Officer of a municipal Housing Department testifies to Neil McIntosh's belief that many Council tenants are struggling to make ends meet (February 14) but not because of high rents.

Tenants on low incomes need not suffer any hardship to pay their rent whether they occupy a Council or private dwelling. Generous rent rebates and allowances and rate rebates are available. All local housing authorities, that is, Councils other than County and Parish Councils have to administer the schemes.

As an example, a man, woman and two children with a weekly income of £49.95 per week (£2.57 per annum) are entitled to free rent in a modern three-bedroomed semi-detached house (capital value in Sussex, say £18,000) for £10.00 per week. Equivalent to a subsidy of £520 per annum, if the man's circumstances change and

he obtains a better job at £99.24 per week (£5,160 per annum) he will still receive a rent rebate of 34p per week (£17.68 per annum).

Quite commonly rent rebates of £7.00 per week (£367 per annum) are claimed, eg. a single person with an income of £30.00 per week occupying a dwelling at a rent of £8.50 and rates of £2.70 per week will pay rent and general rates of £4.34 per week. Pensioners with a weekly income of £50.00 per week occupying a dwelling at a normal rent of £9.00 per week and general rates of £2.94 per week will only be required to pay a total of rent and rates of £6.03 per week.

I trust that those readers who counsel tenants on welfare matters will do better than the Director of Shelter in advising on the general availability of rent and rate rebates and rent allowances to people in need.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD WARD,
Trinity Cottage,
2 Oak End,
Arundel,
Sussex.

A father's rights

From Dr J. R. Allan
Sir, I was astonished to read the totally inaccurate assertions of Maurice Biles in his letter to you published on February 15. As a reader of *The Times* he really ought to be better informed about current practices in the divorce courts.

He asserts that a wife's rights of occupation of the matrimonial home terminate with vacation assuming the house is in the husband's sole name. He should refer to *The Times* Law Report of February 6 last. Under the heading "Father loses custody and home" (F. L. and Another) he will read of a decision which is precisely what he asserts as cannot happen. In his judgment Lord

Denning said: "Who was to have custody? If the wife had custody she would in due course return to the matrimonial home and the husband would have to leave."

That access will never be refused by the court except in rare circumstances. With respect, that is not the problem. The problem is that when access is refused or frustrated by the custodial spouse the court will do nothing about it, an attitude in stark contrast to the one taken when a husband defaults on maintenance.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. ALLAN,
The Spinney,
Parkside,
Upper Hale,
Furtham,
Surrey,
February 14.

Sprucing up Britain's hillsides

From the Director of the Royal Forestry Society

Sir, What an apt title you have chosen for correspondence on the important report issued February 12 by the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at Reading University on the future of forestry in this country. It is "sprucing up" that many of our hillsides need.

Upland Britain has been bare of trees for many centuries. Much is degraded and only supports marginal sheep farming whereas good crops of the timber which is becoming so expensive to import could be grown. At the same time the capital realized by the sale of this land will allow farmers to improve the rest. Properly integrated forestry and farming can increase the production of under-used hill land to the benefit of all concerned.

In this country we seem to have an unreasonable dislike and sometimes even fear of coniferous forests. They are not by any means lacking in wild life, as is often suggested. Indeed, they create habitats for a greater diversity of bird species and also carry greater numbers of birds than the open moorland which they replace.

The proposals of the CAS report for more forestry in the uplands, which in time will produce fine forests of the sort we admire abroad, are to be welcomed by anyone prepared to look objectively at the long term well-being of the uplands; both from the point of view of their economy and increasing wild life interest.

Yours faithfully,
E. H. M. HARRIS,
Director,
Royal Forestry Society,
102 High Street,
Tring,
Hertfordshire,
February 20.

From Dr Humphrey Smith

Sir, I fear that Mr Alan Manning (February 19) may be disingenuous in objecting to expansion of afforestation on the grounds of wildlife conservation. While the UK imports 90 per cent of her timber, and while tropical primary forests are being squandered as a non-renewable resource, the urgent necessity for vastly increased home timber production is beyond question.

Exactly how afforestation is to be done is however open to debate. Granted, tropical primary forests are being squandered as a non-renewable resource, but then an acre of low conservation value; but then an acre of the moorland, with its species-poor flora and acid,

leached soils, which forestry plantations are replacing.

The relative importance society attaches to timber production, amenity and wildlife conservation are very much value judgments for our national policy-makers. However, techniques of quantitative ecology and operational research can be valuable tools in helping society to optimise its land use strategies.

The objectives of commercial forestry and wildlife conservation are not irreconcilable. The forestry system operated in Lord Bradford's Tarncliffe Woodlands (where there were never more than nine trees of the same age and species together) has been shown to be of conservation value by the work of Dr D. L. Wigston and his colleagues at Plymouth Polytechnic. Recent investigations of Buckinghamshire woodlands, by Ecological Research Consultants of Harbury, have indicated that a stand of mixed Norway spruce and ash have their insect fauna every bit as diverse as occur in neighbouring oak-ash woodland.

Objecting to afforestation *per se* is merely silly. Constructive plans for more enlightened and conservation forestry are an immediate priority.

Yours faithfully,
HUMPHREY G. SMITH,
Senior Lecturer in Ecology,
Lancaster Polytechnic,
Priory Street,
Coventry.

From Mr F. Ellis

Sir, Why are "dark monotonous stilet spruce plantations" assumed in Britain to be the only method of afforestation? Swiss woods early this month looked beautiful with the purple-brown deciduous trees mixed with the conifers. Other seasons reveal other beauties of form and leaf.

Inside the woods it was evident that they are used efficiently—trees were mowed for cutting, others had been felled and stables of logs were ready to be moved out. Regeneration and management have been practised for generations.

Wildlife flourishes—I saw two kinds of hawk within a week; an owl and woodpeckers on previous visits. Dear sir,

I ask two questions. Would not conservationists be reassured if mixed forests were planted? Can British foresters not manage mixed forests economically?

Yours faithfully,
F. ELLIS,
39 Lines Road,
Folkestone,
Kent.

Transport in London

From the Leader of the Greater London Council

Sir, Messrs Plowden and Sherlock (February 18) demonstrate that the best myths are the most misconceived.

The suggestion that London's weekend bus services should be cut in order to provide a better weekday service came unbidden from London Transport. The GLC has accepted it, with great reluctance, in principle only; we have yet to be convinced by details of its likely efficacy.

Similarly, the GLC has not failed to produce a coherent road and traffic strategy. We have not, it is true, come up with a solution acceptable to those who are so beset with public transport as to believe in the face of the facts and reason, that all other forms of movement should be hampered or banned.

On the other hand there is a planned balance between public and private transport. We have not, it is true, come up with a solution acceptable to those who are so beset with public transport as to believe in the face of the facts and reason, that all other forms of movement should be hampered or banned.

What the public transport fanatics fail to realise is that bus passengers, for example, are in a minority of road users; that all "restraint" policies involve coercion to one degree or another; and that, even if all traffic other than buses were banned tomorrow from London, the bus could expect on that account an increase of only 1 per cent in the bus miles run!

The answer to London's transport problems lies not in uncritical support of public transport as a concept that it does in unrestrained road construction. The first essential road construction system which is a public transport system which is managerially efficient and cost-effective, and which attracts by its virtues some of the passengers who now trust only their own vehicles. Only a bus system which is a reliable alternative does wholesale restraint have a part to play, and in those circumstances it is likely to be unnecessary.

Yours faithfully,
HORACE CUTLER,
The County Hall, SE1.

Sex education

From Lady Scott

Sir, I am glad of Lady Brook's monstrous letter in *The Times* today (February 16), for it says plainly what the Brook Clinics and the Family Planning Association often conceal, namely that they despise parents and want to remove all responsibility from them in the matter of their children's sex education.

She speaks of parents in terms which the most bigoted and bigoted to use about their chosen scapegoat group. Of course there are irresponsible parents: there are also biased teachers. The really ignorant and irresponsible are those who think that "facts" are truth, irrespective of how they are taught, when, and to whom; who think that "facts" cannot be used to deceive and corrupt.

It is a "fact" that Yehudi Menuhin, playing the violin, is scraping the entrails of a dead sheep with the hair of a dead horse, but it is hardly the musical education we would wish our children to receive.

It should now be clear to parents why they must not let responsibility for their children's sex education slip from them, especially not into the hands of the totalitarian State that Lady Brook envisages.

Yours truly,
DRUSILLA SCOTT,
Ash House,
Alders Lane,
Aldersburg,
Suffolk.

Double-talk in Dublin?

From Dr J. M. Wober

Sir, As you point out in your editorial of February 18, Mr Haughey has made a British edition of Northern Ireland his principal goal. And while on the surface there is deprecation of "the activities of the IRA," particularly "in the Republic itself," there is also a conspicuous absence of "any overt or covert moral condemnation which runs through Mr Lynch's speeches."

What this amounts to from Mr Haughey is double talk. The public utterance is clean, to make an easy political impression among those who cannot or will not look below the surface. The contained meaning to the terrorists is however clearly understood by them; they take support from such declarations.

That we should be on our guard against this kind of stance is also signalled by the recent Irish declaration of support for the PLO. Here, Eire can afford to be more explicit in approving an organisation whose aim is the destruction of a sovereignty and its replacement by a wider, neighbouring nationalism, since no Irish jobs are directly involved. The contained meaning to the PLO is however clearly understood by them; they take support from such declarations.

That we should be on our guard against this kind of stance is also signalled by the recent Irish declaration of support for the PLO. Here, Eire can afford to be more explicit in approving an organisation whose aim is the destruction of a sovereignty and its replacement by a wider, neighbouring nationalism, since no Irish jobs are directly involved. The contained meaning to the PLO is however clearly understood by them; they take support from such declarations.

We should read their meaning clearly, and reject both.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. WOBER,
17 Lancaster Grove, NW3,
February 19.

Peace groups in Ulster

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

مكتبة الأعمال

LAING
make ideas take shape

Stock markets	
FT index 457.6, down 0.7	
FT Gilt 85.84, down 0.12	
Sterling	
\$2.2870 up 75 points	
Index 72.8 up 0.3	
Dollar	
Index 35.6 down 0.1	
Gold	
\$358 up \$30.5	
Money	
3 mth sterling 17 1/4-17 1/2	
3 mth Euro-S 15 1/2-15 3/4	
6 mth Euro-S 15 1/2-15 3/4	

IN BRIEF

Industry plea for major exporting incentive

Mr Michael Hoffman, chairman of Perkins Engines, the world's largest specialist producer of diesel engines, has called on the Government to establish a major new incentive for exporters as the only way to avoid Britain becoming "a manufacturing desert".

In an open letter to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, Mr Hoffman urges him to make provision in next month's Budget for more and cheaper export credit guarantees and to introduce an export rebate scheme geared to the sterling exchange rate.

Exporters were being crippled by the combination of a high inflation rate, inherently low levels of industrial productivity, high interest rates and an overvalued pound, reflecting the impact of North Sea oil, he said.

Export aid to cost more, page 18.

Thorn bid snags

Thorn Electrical may have been thwarted by the French government in its hopes of acquiring control of Locatel, a French television rental company, reports from Paris say that Cie Generale d'Electricite and Thomson-Brandt have been asked by the government to make a counter-bid. Thorn says it has received no official notification of the status of its bid, made last June.

Financial Editor, page 19.

Defence contract

Ultra Electronic Communications of Greenford, Middlesex, part of the Dorey Group electronics division, has received an order from the Ministry of Defence for sonobuoys worth more than £14m.

Aluminium output up

Aluminium production in the non-ferrous sector rose in January to 1,048,000 tonnes, a rise of 995,000 tonnes from a year earlier. World primary aluminium capacity stood at 13.4m tonnes at the end of last year and is expected to rise to 14.1m tonnes by the middle of 1981.

Talbot Cars threat

Production is threatened at the Talbot Cars engine manufacturing plant in Coventry where 200 factory cleaners went on unofficial strike yesterday over pension and lay off pay rights. Pickets turned away several lorries with components.

Dearer plastics

Shell Chemicals is to increase the price of all grades of polypropylene, used in moulded goods and packaging film, by 10 per cent next month. The company, which blames the rise on increased crude oil and feedstock costs, says prices will have to go up again this year.

£12m BP ship order

Acadards (Shipbuilding), of Lowestoft, a Tate & Lyle subsidiary, has won a £12m supply and support vessel for British Petroleum, to operate in the North Sea Magnus Field.

PSBR likely to be under £9,000m for full year despite third quarter rise

By John Whitmore

The public sector borrowing requirement totalled £9,666m on a seasonally adjusted basis in the first nine months of the present financial year. But the Government still appears to feel confident that the full year outcome will be just below £9,000m.

The Chancellor announced measures last November to generate additional revenue in the final quarter and in particular decided to raise a further £700m from the oil companies by accelerating payments of petroleum revenue tax.

This apart, the final quarter already looked likely to produce a small surplus for the public sector as a result of a number of special factors.

First, the bulk of the Government's receipts from its £1,000m programme of asset sales will fall in the January-March period. Second, the distortions in the Post Office's finances as a result of the strike last year which delayed customers' bills has meant that about £500m (of an estimated £1,000m of revenue for exporters in the first three quarters) would be recovered in the last three months of the financial year.

It has also been the case in the present and particularly distorted financial year that the Government's finances have been upset by the very slow payment of the higher rates of VAT.

This left the PSBR higher than it should have been in the October-December period and, though full-year payments of VAT may still fall short of what is estimated to be due, the final quarter figures should show a better flow of payments.

The Government is also being helped at the moment by the higher-than-expected flow of income tax receipts. These are running ahead of original estimates as a result of the higher-than-forecast increase in average earnings. But this may not be a particularly long-lasting benefit to the Government's finances overall if public sector pay awards move significantly ahead of private sector pay increases.

The news of the third quarter PSBR figures made little impact in the City. Markets are now more concerned with the day-to-day consequences of the monetary system of the exceptionally

large flows of money that have been moving out of the private sector and into the hands of the Exchequer in recent weeks. They are also very interested in what Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, is going to say about next year's PSBR in his Budget speech on March 26.

Although indications over the past few days, which suggest that the Chancellor is now thinking in terms of holding the PSBR at about the same level in nominal terms, have provided a degree of reassurance—previously it had seemed that the Government was thinking in terms of allowing the PSBR to rise to about £10,000m—the City will be keen to see both the way in which the Government plans to do this and the assumptions on which it makes its forecast.

The main reason for the Chancellor's apparent wish to scale down next year's PSBR compared with his earlier plans is the growing feeling that any rise in the borrowing requirement could now make it very difficult to justify a fall in interest rates.

Financial Editor, page 19.

Capital spending holds steady but stock figures hint at recession

By Our Economics Staff

Capital spending by industry was almost unchanged in the fourth quarter of 1979 from its previous level, in spite of predictions of a sharp downturn as a result of the expected recession.

However, industry tried to gear itself up for a bleak beginning to the 1980s by cutting back on stocks. Manufacturing industry stocks fell by £37m, but stock trading in the retail outlets forced shops to accept an increase of £181m in their levels as unsold goods piled up during the fourth quarter of last year.

New figures released by the Department of Industry suggest that total investment by manufacturing and service industries during 1979 was higher than initial estimates of the level during the first half of the year suggested. It is thought that investment during 1979 as a whole was about 4 per cent higher in real terms than during 1978.

The figures show a sharp disparity between the performance of manufacturing industry, which is estimated to have seen a fall of 3 per cent to £94m at 1975 prices in the fourth quarter of the year, with static performance over the year as a whole; and the service industries, which saw a 5 per cent increase.

The low level of demand expected throughout this year, coupled with persistent cash flow problems is forcing industry to scale down its investment intentions.

The impact of the recession on the level of stocks is expected to be less than that of the recession on the level of investment. All sectors of industry would like to reduce stock levels, as would retailers because of the very high interest rates which they are being forced to pay to finance them.

But the sharp downturn in retail demand makes it particularly hard to cut back, and some forecasts are predicting that the overall level of stocks held will continue to rise against the wishes of the corporate sector.

On the other hand the Treasury in its last published forecast in November assumed that stocks would be run down relatively rapidly. An indication of what success the retail sector is having in cutting back its level of stocks will come from the retail figures published for January.

This will be a crucial month, because shops made a major effort to clear out stocks. The figures were due to be published next Monday but have been postponed because of technical problems.

Table, page 20.

Although the report was finished before minimum lending rate hit a record level of 17 per cent, bringing up building society rates in its wake, which it acknowledged might create difficulties in implementing a new structure based on competitive levels, some leading societies are keen to put the movement's rate structure on to a new footing as soon as possible.

Mr Thayne said that the Halifax was not fundamentally opposed to the Stow report. He thought interest rates might be a little slow in moving down, but he was against "constantly holding them up to create a new situation".

In the year January 31, the Halifax lent £1,825m to 146,400 new borrowers, of whom 46 per cent were first-time buyers. During the year, 1,156 million new investment accounts were opened, bringing the total number of investors up to 6,124 million.

Halifax promise on lower interest rates

By Margaret Stone

The Halifax Building Society, with assets of more than £9,000m, yesterday dismissed any hopes that the building society movement would be able to move on to a new interest rate structure.

Mr Albert Thayne, chief general manager, made it clear that the Halifax would begin to bring down its interest rates as soon as a general downwards trend had been established.

This is good news for the society's 1 million borrowers and for borrowers with other societies too, but it flops the recommendations of the recently published Stow report on mortgage finance.

The report said: "It is probable that the general level of interest rates will fall during the year and, in this event, the committee believes that societies should hold their interest rates until such time as mortgage demand is being reasonably met."

Americans seek trade concessions from Britain to offset restrictions imposed on fibre imports

By John Haxley

Retailers' action against British goods will be taken if the United States fails to obtain compensation for restrictions imposed on fibre imports.

Mr Reuben Askew, the United States trade negotiator, said that the United States was being asked to make trade concessions to offset the loss of business resulting from quota restrictions.

He said that should Britain fail to do so the United States would make a trade war, although he did not specify products which might be affected.

Mr Askew said that talks to be held under Articles 19 and 23 of GATT would begin within the next fortnight and he is expected to reach a conclusion in 90 days.

Department of Trade officials have been studying the implications of the American request for talks. It has taken trade

negotiators into relatively uncharted territory and the fact that last night was that talks would be conducted at EEC levels.

Compensation could take the form of a reduction in the tariffs on other American goods. American textile manufacturers, however, have already raised the possibility of raising duties on other British goods, such as woolens.

On both sides, there has been an anxiety to prevent a trade war. When announcing details of the quotas on synthetic fibres—aimed primarily at the flood of low-cost imports from the United States—Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, said he thought they had been pitched at a level which would not provoke the United States into large quantities of less competitive goods and oils derived from animals.

Later, Mr Askew attempted to rally European support for the

Cartier Administration's new tariff by linking the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan with the rise of protectionist trade pressures in the West.

This latest example of Soviet aggression adds to the dangers which abound in western economies dependent on Middle Eastern oil," he said in a speech to the Trade Policy Research Centre and the Foreign Affairs Club.

Protectionist pressures in the United States had been heightened by the domestic costs of the economic sanctions the Americans imposed in response to the Soviet invasion.

Meanwhile, textile union and employer representatives told the industry was in its worst state for more than 40 years.

Mr John Lloyd Jones, director-general of the British Textile Employers' Association, said that the EEC had shown itself incapable in protecting the industry.

being suspended facing losses of more than £20m.

Brentnall was the broking group which produced much of the loss-making business but has always denied it was at fault. It announced yesterday that it would repudiate allegations made in the third-party notice and strenuously defend the proceedings.

Touche Ross announced last night that it was satisfied its report on the accounts was appropriate when it was issued.

But it would not have been able to express an opinion "if the existence of the third-party proceedings and the consequent uncertainty as to the effect on the group's financial position had been known".

Earlier this month Brentnall revealed almost doubled pre-tax losses of £1.2m and claimed that its involvement in the Sasse affair had made new business hard to obtain.

the meeting was taking advantage of the time given by the Council for members to comment on the draft and proposed amendments. The draft is open until March 14, three times longer than usual. The draft will come into force on that day if there are no amendments.

Yesterday's meeting decided to set up a working party to compile a submission to the Council that would indicate ways in which the list of people with whom jobbers would be allowed to deal, which is drawn up annually and vetted by the Stock Exchange, can be tightened more than is envisaged.

It seems to have been accepted that there was no point in going against the Council's wishes. Brokers wanted, tactfully, to give the Council the benefit of advice of those with the knowledge of business overseas.

The meeting was in difficulty here because Mr Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, said the Council had noted the argument that "it would be impossible for jobbers to know, when they dealt with overseas firms, that the dealings were in each case on principal account."

But the Council decided that if the rules were clear, they would be respected by the jobbers. Hence the brokers' stress on clarification.

Jobbers were wary of commenting ahead of their own suggestions to the draft. One was sure that jobbers would be cautious in using any new freedom.

Some brokers still think that they are being asked to surrender something for nothing, but they have the power to decide which jobbers they approach in British dealing if they continue to feel aggrieved.

Broking firms with major overseas links seek ways to limit concessions to jobbers

By Peter Walworth

Representatives of 25 broking firms with big overseas links met last night to decide what alterations they wished to put forward to draft revisions of the Stock Exchange rule book, provisionally agreed earlier this month.

The Stock Exchange Council's draft was designed to give jobbers greater freedom to win business abroad, while preserving the traditional separation of broker and jobber at home. The subject has come to a head now that exchange controls have gone.

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Builders may pull out of £100m Iran project

By Ronald Pollen

A British construction group has warned Iran that unless it meets all its obligations on a £100m road contract, it will pull out of the project. Bath and Portland, the west country building and civil engineering group, said yesterday that unless it receives £25m which it claims is owed before the end of April, it will terminate the contract.

Opec chief puts case for single oil price

By Nicholas Hirst

Order could be brought back to international oil markets within the next few months if members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) agree one price for crude oil, Dr Humberto Calderon-Berti, the Venezuelan oil minister, said in London yesterday.

Price unification would pave the way for the introduction of a system of automatic price adjustments which would increase the price of oil in real terms without damaging Western economies.

Dr Calderon-Berti explained that he was in London to attend the final meeting of Opec's long-term strategy committee which is to present its report to an extraordinary meeting of oil ministers.

The final report of the committee would recommend that Opec should adjust oil prices quarterly to project the real value against inflation and currency fluctuations. The latter would be eliminated by linking the value of a barrel of oil to a basket of international currencies, and prices would rise of line with an average of the inflation rate in industrialized countries.

State group gives ship contract to Belgium

By Peter Hill

Britain's hard-pressed shipbuilding industry has lost a conversion contract placed by a government-sponsored research organization to build a shipyard, at a time when government departments are under pressure to advance public sector orders to boost employment prospects in British yards.

The National Environmental Research Council sponsored by the Department of Education has placed a £1.5m contract for the conversion of a former French trawler into a fully-equipped research ship with an Ozean yard. The work was placed overseas because British quotations for the work were nearly 10 per cent higher than those submitted by the Belgian company.

Quoted simply the Belgian price was 10 per cent below the prices quoted by the four British yards which replied. We need to get value for money, bearing in mind our limited resources," the NERC said.

The line was invited tenders from 20 British yards, most of them subsidiaries of state-owned British Shipbuilders and four replies were received. Three were from state-owned yards—Hall, Russell of Aberdeen, Robb Caledon of Leith, Middle Dock Engineering of South Shields—and the fourth was from Richards Shipbuilders, a private company based in Lowestoft.

Because the tenders were considered high, according to the council, further tenders were invited in October from British companies and six EEC yards. The same four British yards replied, together with Scheepswerven Boland, a Belgian yard.

British Shipbuilders has been embarrassed by the decision because Hall Russell which has been nominated to build the new breed of offshore protection vessels, is faced with the gap in its workload through the failure of the Government to reach a decision on the vessel.

Because it was a public sector order and because it was a conversion contract, the NERC contract would not have qualified for a subvention from the Government's shipbuilding intervention fund which is designed to narrow the gap between British and foreign prices.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises	
De Vere Hotels	13p to 236p
Imp Cont Gas	10p to 740p
Lasmo	14p to 485p
Middle Wits	31p to 189p
Morgan Edwards	15p to 138p
Falls	
Airfix Ind	2p to 171p
Cartron Vty	11p to 141p
Change Wares	11p to 71p
Foster Bros	8p to 50p
Gillett Bros	25p to 165p

THE POUND

Airline Ind	2p to 17p	London Ord
Change Wares	12.05 to 12.05	Man Ship Cans
Change Wares	11p to 7p	Miffoz Docks
Footer Bros	8p to 7p	Nogate Explorer
Eastern Bros	25p to 165p	
	8p to 85p	

THE POUND

Bank	Sells	Bank	Sells
Australia \$	2.12	Norway Kr	11.52
Austria Sch	30.20	Portugal Esc	109.50
Belgium F	69.50	Spain Ptas	166.75
Canada \$	2.69	Sweden Kr	9.82
Danish Kr	12.87	Switzerland Fr	3.35
Denmark Dkr	16.46	Yugoslavia Ddr	54.00
France F	9.63		
Germany Dm	4.17		
Ireland P	89.00		
Italy Lira	11.60		
Netherlands Gld	4.59		

System X puts a check on spending and guards against fraud

Microchip card draws the line on credit

The X-card, a new style of credit card which simply runs out of money when its value has been used up, is on its way. Its microchip memory puts an automatic brake on a purchaser's spending when he has used up the credit he is allowed.

SGS-ATES, the Italian semiconductor manufacturer, is at present working on a market strategy to bring the X-card, one of the first microprocessor credit cards, into use in Britain. It is about the same size as any other plastic credit or cheque card. But each has a certain monetary value and, as each purchase of a particular item is made, the cost is deducted from the amount paid for the card.

The X-card has been developed by the manufacturers in conjunction with the Italian Post Office which is using the system in a number of its regions as part of a test programme.

Certainly the British Post Office, and particularly its telephone service could adopt the system and it could also be applied to automatic ticket machines on London Transport or British Rail.

The cards are on sale through the Italian Post Office at 5000 lire (£2.50). They are slotted into specially adapted telephone collection boxes which are able to write on to the card, in code form, the new value of the card after the caller has used some credit.

Finally the card will have no credit left and will be discarded.

Among the numerous advantages of the system, it reduces various fraudulent activities regarding use of coin boxes, not least the use of foreign coins. The manufacturer claims

that the mechanism for a kiosk telephone can be far simpler than present designs requiring collection and security facilities and as a consequence the cost is dramatically reduced.

However, the system could be used with as much effect in any area requiring either security of entry—where the bearer must be defined with his own personal code number—or in other circumstances where payment is made to a machine, as in the case of vending machines or car parks.

Despite the X-card's size, 85 by 54mm, it is only 2.2mm thick, yet it is moulded into its centre a microprocessor in which more than 100 programmable memory cells. That information can be retained for a century on the silicon chip .047 inches square.

The most revolutionary part of the design centres on a

technique called non volatile random access memory (NVRAM). Simply, it means that the memory in the X-card can be programmed and reprogrammed without needing to be permanently attached to some form of power supply.

The vendor—whether it be the Post Office or British Rail or a machine vending company—would be able at the time of manufacture to have a card's purpose and value assigned to it with a special security coding.

Purchases by the holder would be debited from the microprocessor's memory and the credit limit of the card revealed. Before the next purchase the new value of the X-card would be displayed to the user on the respective vending machine just before buying.

Bar Johnstone

Auditors' second thoughts on Brentnall accounts

By Richard Allen

Brentnall Board, the insurance broker, has withdrawn a declaration made with its annual accounts earlier this month, which suggested that the group would not be adversely affected by suits and claims over the Sasse dispute at Lloyd's.

And Touche Ross and Co, the group's auditors, has stated that if it had known of recent legal developments when it signed the accounts on February 8, it would not have been able to endorse them as giving a true and fair view.

Last week Brentnall became involved in Sasse litigation through a third-party notice served by underwriting member Sasse (Touche), who as defendant being sued by 25 syndicate members. Lloyd's itself is also being sued by syndicate members over events which led up to the stricken syndicate

being suspended facing losses of more than £20m.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

France's way with foreigners

Thorn is the latest British company apparently to fall foul of France's nationalistic attitude towards foreign investment. After about six months' delay, it seems that the French authorities are trying to persuade local companies to pick up the interest in Locatel, a television rental company which Thorn would like to buy.

On the face of it, France's foreign investment rules are no more strict than elsewhere in Europe. No official permission is needed for foreign companies to acquire up to 20 per cent of French ones, a provision much in line with France's neighbours.

The difficulties arise when control, rather than an interest, is the object of foreign investment. Companies, particularly British and American, have noted two common experiences. Clear rules are hard to find, and once the government steps in, interminable delays follow. With some justification companies have suggested that the delays are a deliberate deterrent device.

The French authorities say they prefer their companies to be owned by local interests, and arranging a counter-bid is often complicated. They are especially suspicious of international companies, which they regard as stalking horses for Anglo-Saxon influence, and liable to increase imports into France. Despite assurances from Thorn, it is still believed by some people in Paris that Locatel might be used as a way of flooding France with Japanese electronic goods.

Electronics is an especially sensitive area. The present Thomson-Brandt organization was created by government pressure to resist American and German penetration of the French market. Similar strategic considerations applied to nuclear reactors, aircraft, and vehicles.

It may be that the practice of investment in France is much more involved than the rules suggest. No foreigners often feel they are not wanted. But it is hard to argue that the prosperity of France has been adversely affected.

Yesterday's third quarter figures for the public sector borrowing requirement were not encouraging. They show that after the first nine months of the present financial year public sector borrowing totalled £11,072m on an unadjusted basis and £9,966m after seasonal adjustment.

The Government is going to need an unusually large surplus over the final three months of the year to meet the Chancellor's latest full year PSBR estimate of around £9,000m.

It appears to be reasonably confident, however, that the final outcome will in fact be on the right side of the £9,000m figure. For in addition to the additional revenues the Government announced for the final quarter, the asset sales target now appears to be seen up and the higher-than-forecast rises in average earnings have boosted income tax receipts.

Not that any of this meant much to financial markets yesterday. Nor indeed did (highly) provisional October-December stockbuilding figures that did not entirely square with last autumn's buoyancy in bank lending. The focus of attention is now firmly fixed on interest rate developments on the other side of the Atlantic and what the Chancellor may or may not do on March 26.

Bath and Portland

The Iranian episode

There comes a point in any dispute when it is time to call it a day and Bath and Portland's patience with Iran over its £100m road contract there has now run out.

Cushioned by the knowledge that some 90 per cent of the contract is insured through the Export Credits Guarantee Department, the group has given the Iranian authorities one last chance to meet its obligations.

DEUTSCHE BABCOCK

Deutsche Babcock's losses so far on the Neka power plant project in Iran total Dm40m. Executive board chairman Hans Ewaldsen told a press conference that the losses are not retrievable through West Germany's officially backed export insurance scheme.

Hans Ewaldsen said work on the Neka plant on the Caspian Sea coast cannot be completed as no gas or oil is being supplied to it, and the planned power transmission line from the plant is not completed. — Reuters.

CENTROMIN COPPER PLAN

Centromin, Peru's mining corporation, has obtained \$350m worth of credits for its copper expansion programme. Señor Guillermo Flores Pinedo, chairman, said, Señor Flores said a new \$35m loan from the Inter-American Development Bank added to earlier credits from other sources, brought the total credit available to \$350m.

The first stage of the long-delayed programme will expand output at the Cobriza copper mine in the Central Andes, to 26,000 tonnes from 16,000 tonnes a year. — Reuters.

ST ANDREW TRUST

Net revenues, after tax, for 1979, £330,000 (1978, £200,000). Total dividend, 1p (1.2p), plus special payment of 1.42p (nil).

GRIPPEROOD HOLDINGS

Turnover for six months to October 31 rose from £5.84m to £6.95m and pre-tax profits from £475,000 to £558,000. Interest payment rose from 1.81p to 2.25p.

RACAL-DECCA

Racal Electronics has formally notified Decca that it holds 1.75m ordinary shares in Decca; Hill Samuel Investment Management, an associate of Racal, have bought 400 EC shares at 38p for a discretionary investment client.

Peter Hill reports on the efforts being made to cut the steel industry down to size

BSC's grim vision of the future

Today the British Steel Corporation will receive the steel unions' counter proposals to its final offer. Given that the strike is about to enter its third month and attitudes on both sides have become increasingly bitter, prospects of real progress towards a resolution of the dispute are far from bright. But the dispute over the size of the eventual settlement is only part of the appalling prospect for the corporation.

Selling the proposals

At the heart of the crisis are the corporation's proposed remedies—axing over six million tonnes of steelmaking capacity and with it, 52,000 jobs. Even with retrenchment British Steel will have five million tonnes capacity in reserve.

The corporation has convinced itself that the outlook really is bleak, that demand among the chief steel-using industries is plummeting, that all the analyses it has made are the best possible guide to the future. But however grim and grave the prospects may be in the corporation's eyes, the senior executives have so far failed miserably to convince the steel industry unions that change is vital.

In Brussels yesterday the BSC outlined in great detail to European MPs and Commission officials the factors which it has taken into account in reaching its decisions. On Monday, it will seek to ram the message home in a similar seminar with the TUC's Steel Industry Consultative Committee.

Chairman Sir Charles Villiers is emphatic. "There is no sensible option open to the BSC which would make it any

stronger than the one we have put forward", he says. That assertive view is shared not only by managing directors of divisions but by the corporation's analysts and marketing and sales teams. But are their prognoses correct?

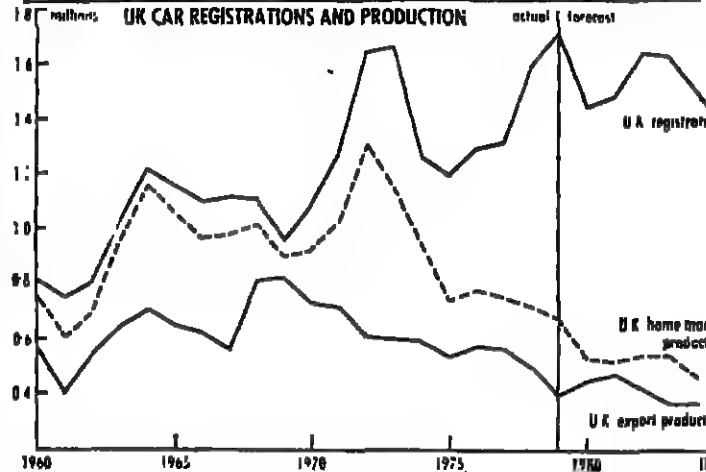
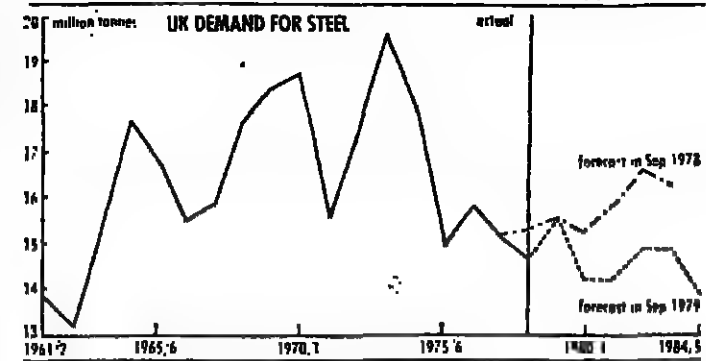
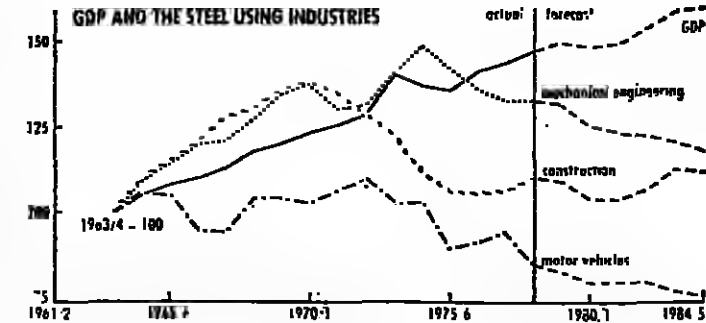
The corporation claims that the evidence suggests that they are. But the BSC's record in forecasting future trends has not won prizes for accuracy. This time round, however, it factors in a more than directionally correct.

It is no use, says Mr Gordon Sambrook, the corporation's commercial managing director, for the unions to urge BSC to sell more—against the background of a 100 million tonne surplus of world capacity and highly competitive foreign prices.

As the charts indicate, the outlook is gloomy in the big steel using industries and the strength of sterling is acting against foreign sales. Exports to the United States—where there are as many as 100,000 tonnes in lost profits. The strength of the pound coupled with inflation, and the BSC's present cost structure is a key factor in the planned export cutback.

The message which the corporation has sought to impress on the unions is quite simply that the steel market has fundamentally changed, that other nations have moved to it, and unless the BSC reacts the consequences will be even more far reaching. United Kingdom demand for finished steel in the coming financial year, according to the corporation forecast, will be around 14.3 million tonnes against an average level in recent years of about 15.5 million tonnes.

For the vital strip mill works of South Wales—Llanwern and



Technology

Time for R and D men to get their feet wet

Kenneth Owen

The research and development effort needed to underpin Britain's exploitation of offshore energy resources is broadly based, but its organization is too fragmented.

Industry's penchant for confidentiality of information is hindering the spread of knowledge. What is required is a strategy; what we have is a collection of ad hoc projects.

These points emerged yesterday at a conference in London on offshore research strategy organized by the Underwater Engineering Group of the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA).

Support for offshore R and D comes from a number of sources, including the Department of Energy, the Department of Industry, the Science Research Council and the European Community. CIRIA's Underwater Engineering Group is a cooperative industrial research body, using external research contractors to implement projects selected by the group's member companies.

The Department of Energy is spending about £8m a year on offshore research, divided between about 250 projects in 12 main areas. Half the total goes to four of these areas—materials; integrity monitoring and non-destructive testing; subsea and buoyant systems; and submersible vehicles and remote control.

Materials work includes a key programme on the fatigue of welded tubular steel joints which has become the cornerstone of a large programme supported by the European Coal and Steel Community. Research into the performance of concrete structures forms another substantial programme, funded jointly by the department and by industry.

In monitoring the structural integrity of offshore platforms, the objective of the Department of Energy was to identify ways to reduce the need for divers to check possible damage. A range of novel remote sensing techniques is being explored.

Subsea and buoyant production systems are of interest where the water is very deep or the fields are too marginal to justify the expense of large, fixed installations.

The development of submersible vehicles for inspection has received Department of Energy support for some time.

Now, on the initiative of Sir Hartman Bond, Chief Scientist, the department has decided to commission substantial further studies of remote control underwater devices.

The ultimate objective, Mr Michael Igglesien, of the department's Offshore Technology Unit said yesterday, is to provide remotely controlled mechanical alternatives to divers.

Outside the Department of Energy two further sources of support are the Ship and Marine Technology Requirements Board of the Department of Industry and the Science Research Council (SRC) which funds university research. It was Mr Michael Ayde, on secondment from BP as marine technology director, who raised the question of overall organization at yesterday's conference.

"There cannot be said to exist any totally comprehensive organization of offshore technology in this country", he said. Experts advise the various funding bodies in isolation, labels of confidentiality are imposed too readily and there is much scope for rationalization. Resources and requirements could be better matched and the professional engineering institutions could possibly play a more significant role.

Mr R. K. Venables, managing director of the Underwater Engineering Group, agreed that there was room for improvement in the organization, direction and dissemination of results of offshore research.

has also decided on a change of emphasis in its programme of support for Community offshore energy projects. To date 144 projects have received 168.9m units of account (about £110m) towards their total costs of 474.7m units of account.

Among the achievements recorded so far, improvements in drilling have led to an ability to drill in deeper water; new production systems have made deep-water and marginal fields economic; advances in seismic methods have helped to pinpoint probable reservoirs with greater accuracy; and systems to use the associated gas will help to conserve energy.

Now for the changes, as outlined in a paper yesterday by Mr Berthold Daniels of the Commission's Directorate-General Energy; the emphasis should be on projects of pure innovation and desktop studies and directed towards projects which would "transform concept into reality". Joint technological projects between European companies should be encouraged. Much preliminary, non-commercial work could be shared.

Some areas of oil and gas technology were saturated; the quality of projects in specific areas was continuously declining; and a greater degree of selectivity should be applied. For the future, European companies should pool their resources to develop and exploit new technology, Mr Daniels urged. "Although European industry has made great strides in obtaining a segment of the offshore market, the European market share is still pitifully small".

Against this general background a number of specific problems have emerged in the United Kingdom. The Department of Energy sees its main problem as a shortage of good R and D projects rather than a shortage of funds; proposals tend to be for science rather than for engineering.

How the US grain embargo will affect Russian diets

President Carter's embargo on additional exports of grain and soyabean to the Soviet Union is bound to cause serious problems for Russian planners anxious to provide an adequate feedbase for livestock.

In 1975—and the situation is not much different today—average meat consumption per head of population was 56 kilograms, an amount less than that normally demanded by an urban industrial society.

In the same year meat consumption averaged 78 kg in Poland and almost 90 kg in Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The latter figure corresponds to West European levels if account is taken of the fact that these figures should be reduced by 10 per cent to convert them to a western statistical basis.

These facts are recognized by Soviet planners who set a norm of 82 kg for average meat consumption in 1990. As a corollary to this it is proposed to reduce the consumption of flour and flour products from 149 kg per head in 1975 to 120 kg and of potatoes from 120 kg to 97 kg on the principle that with rising incomes less starchy food and more meat is demanded.

Such trends have long been evident in the Soviet Union, as much as in other countries with rising incomes, the consumption of starchy foods already having fallen from much higher levels in the 1950s. Imports of meat, mainly from East Europe, have not added significantly to consumption and this is likely to remain so. Large-scale imports of feed are more practicable than of meat.

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As a result of the American embargo the cushioning effect of imports is limited. Plans for reaching the consumption targets set for 1990 must be handily revised. The place of rebuilding livestock numbers.

But serious doubts have been expressed about these targets for some time, founded on the underlying problems of livestock production caused by the backwardness of agricultural technology and inefficiencies in the planning mechanism. The climatic and soil conditions of the Soviet Union are less favourable for agriculture than those of West Europe or the United States. Few regions are blessed with both rich soils and adequate, regular rainfall. About two-thirds of the production is in areas subject to not infrequent droughts and this affects particularly wheat which has a more than usual role in animal feed since the growing of maize, the most successful feedgrain elsewhere, is restricted by natural conditions.

Doubts

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It is also argued that strategic mistakes were made in the past. In the 1950s Khrushchev extended the cultivated area eastwards instead of intensifying agriculture in the western regions. This was followed by an excessive emphasis on the cultivation of maize which proved to be misplaced. In general the five-year plans for agriculture tend to be optimistic. The grain production target of 235 million tons for 1980, set in the present plan, appears to be appropriate for a very good harvest rather than for a year with average weather conditions.

Also the grain output is insufficient because the conversion of feed into livestock produce is inefficient. For too much grain is used without it being mixed with other fodder or processed into compounds, and in general the caloric and protein balance of animal feeding is, by modern standards, incorrect. One reason for this is a shortage of protein feeds.

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Business Diary: Good for film making • Rising star in stocks

Hollywood is fast intruding into life at the Mayfair offices of Arthur Guinness and Son, where talk of toucans, stout and television commercials is usually the order of the day.

Richard St Johns, star of the company's recently acquired film production group, is to be found there, talking to film men about next year's big films, laying the groundwork for this year's releases and delighting in the inquisitive management attitude of his new bosses.

"Guinness are just great—they leave me alone", says St Johns, whose Hollywood background lies in his mother Adelaide, a former boardroom secretary and script editor for RKO, and now a frequent interviewee on Thames Television's Tuesday night series on the early film industry.

The Irish drinking company inherited a stake in St Johns' Film Finance Group through its takeover of the Kilmphar advertising agency. It increased its stake to 60 per cent last year.

The fruits are now starting to appear, all of them with St Johns' name on the billing as executive producer. Front runners for success are *The Final Countdown*, which is a showcase for Kirk Douglas, who stars, and his son Peter, who directs, and *Dead and Buried*, from the writing team behind the immensely successful *Alien*.

Sadly, one-time British television commercial director, Ridley Scott, who directed *Alien*, will not be working on *Dead and Buried*, having been promoted to directorial stardom in Hollywood.

St Johns limits Film Finance Group's stake in productions to no more than 10 per cent and raises the rest of the budget from the big studios, conventional sources and pre-sale advances.

He sees FFC's role as that of a developer of sound, commercial ideas and refuses to consider propositions from unproven sources or schemes which are not fully worked out before they reach him.

The Guinness money will stay, to a large extent, in Hollywood. St Johns says that that is where the talent is, though he is spending some money on *The Final Countdown* in England on special effects and the score.

One unexpected consequence of the Russian occupation of Afghanistan is the disappearance of cheaper fox furs. Before the Russian's moved in, the Afghani traders used to send their supply of pelts over the Pakistan border where they were sold to western fur merchants. But the closure of the North-West frontier border has led to a dearth of Afghani grey skins with the consequent result of a dramatic increase in prices.

Roger Underhill, Director General of the Advertising Association, faces a hectic week-end of scribbling reports, thanks to a bottleneck of important events.

The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising's important 1980 conference opens at Stratford on Sunday, two days before the equally important EEC Commission public hearing on consumer affairs legislation in Dublin.

Underhill will be one of those responsible for the advertising industry's contribution to the Dublin debate, which will cover such controversial matters as statutory controls on advertising and product liability.

If Underhill feels overworked, he should pity the poor hacks. The Advertising Standardisation Authority has decided to unveil its programme for 1980 at a press conference on Monday afternoon in London.

Investment conferences are big business in America, where increasing numbers of people are becoming worried by the twin dangers to their savings of inflation and taxation.

By and large the investors hear a lot of general advice at these conferences, but few speakers show the guts to be specific. One notable exception is Lawrence Monberg, Jr, a dapper and flamboyant Florida stockbroker and rising star of the conference circuit. He rose to fame on his "Stock of the year". This time last year he told several hum-



Roger Underhill.

drad potential investors in Miami to watch Standard Micro-systems Corporation, then trading at \$84. The latest price is \$14—not a sensational advance, but a gain.

Monberg has now announced his 1980 "Stock of the Year", Magnet Metals, part of a group of oil and gas leaseholders in Australia.

Even if Monberg's star fails to shine, however, investors at the conference can take some comfort. Under American tax laws acquiring advice about investment is a legitimate deduction.

The mighty Halifax Building Society is jumping on to the clearing banks' bandwagon and launching its own cash dispensing card next month.

But the philosophy of "if you can't beat 'em join 'em" is not the reason why.

Cardcash, the pride and joy of general manager and director Calum Macaskill, is yet another way in which the building societies are seeking out to fill the breach left when banks shut up shop on Saturday mornings.

Instead of queuing in the local Halifax branch, Cardcash holders can now draw up to £200 in notes from the cash dispenser. However, as building society members are not allowed to let their investing members go into the red, the machine politely refuses to cough up if the money is not there.

The Halifax has run a pilot scheme with its own staff for 12 months.

In order to use Cardcash properly there is little doubt that people will want to have their salaries paid directly into the building society. But one man who will not be director and chief general manager Albert Thayer. Pleased as he is with the prospects for his particular bit of plastic, he prefers the anonymity of the bank he has used all his life.

British and Australian engineers will be working shortly in the river Kwai Noi valley where allied prisoners built the notorious Bangkok to Rangoon railway during the Second World War.

Sheridan Contractors of Birmingham has a £25m contract in Bangkok to build a 14-mile long tunnel in the valley.

The contract is the largest won by Sheridans overseas. The firm worked on the Victoria Tube line and the Blackwall tunnel in London and first ventured into Thailand with a £15m contract to improve Bangkok's water supply system.

Sheridans will be working with the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation of Australia, the consulting engineers on the £150m dam scheme. Britons and Australians made on the railway.

Pedigree Petfoods, already "the biggest producer of packet foods for dogs and cats in Europe", has announced a press conference to "explain the development of its packet food range for the British pet owner". Those who attend are promised the new products "will be available to you in appropriate quantities to try at home with your own pets". The heard of Chum, but this is ridiculous.

David Hewson

Tibor Barna

The author is Professor of Economics at the University of Sussex. His study "Agriculture towards the year 2000: production and trade in high income countries" (Sussex European Paper No 6) will be published on February 27, price 14.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Uranium profits soar at Mary Kathleen

Pretax profits at Mary Kathleen Uranium, the Australian producer indirectly controlled by Rio Tinto-Zinc, soared last year from A\$707,000 to A\$17.3m (13.52m). Furthermore, accumulated tax losses meant that no tax was payable, though the company warns that it will become liable to taxation this year.

No dividends are being paid but production was up from 608 tonnes of U308 in 1978 to 832 tonnes. Output in the fourth quarter was 233.7 tonnes.

Another Australian company, Western Mining, announced that it will not extend its bid for BH South because CTB nominees, holders of 15.3 per cent of BH South, have rejected the offer. Acceptances came to 58.3 per cent by January 18. Some of BH South's assets will be sold to Conzinc Rio Tinto of Australia.

The great Australian diamond rush also received another fillip yesterday with the news that Pennzill Australia, a United States company, is expected to start prospecting seriously for stones at Rutherford, some 300 kilometres north of Melbourne.

The other big rush of the moment, gold, has encouraged the Philippines to raise gold production. Output is expected to rise from 17,450 kilograms last year to 20,152 this year.

The extra gold will come from new mines, higher output from existing ones, and more production as a by-product from copper.

Platinum is another precious metal which has benefited from the boom. But Sir Albert Robinson, chairman of Rustenburg Platinum, warns in his annual review, that the free market price has been driven to levels unjustified by normal market considerations. He says that sales in the first half of 1980 will be lower than in the same period last year because of falling demand for cars in the United States.

The South African gold and investment group, Gold Fields Property, part of Gold Fields of South Africa, made pretax profits in the six months to September 30, of R1.33m (£740,000) compared with R1.33m for the whole of the previous financial year.

Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria is proposing to return £1.17m in surplus funds to shareholders by way of a capital payment of 9p a share and two interim dividends of 3p net each. The capital arises from the enforced sale of assets in Nigeria.

Sotheby's capital spending rises to £5.1m

Capital spending of fine art auctioneers Sotheby Parke Bernet rose last year from £1.69 million to £5.1 million.

The major part of the programme went on the Acolia Hall, opposite the group's London premises in Bond Street.

Sotheby Beresford Adams and the new property at 1334 York Avenue at 72nd Street in New York.

In August the group bought a 30-year lease on the New York property and intends to buy the freehold for \$8,000,000 this year, under special finance agreements with the group's bankers.

Auction sales for the first four months of the current year are 31 per cent ahead at £94.34 million, with the most significant advance coming from the United States and Canada.

AVON RUBBER

Lord Farham, chairman, told the annual meeting that order books in most group companies are healthy, although margins are under continuing pressure. Board believes improvement in year's profits is still possible.

Wall Street

New York, Jan 21.—Stock prices retreated a bit in late trading but still managed to hold most of a strong early advance. Advancing issues were ahead of decliners by 748 to 504.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 872.78, up 5.63. It had been more than eight points higher during the afternoon. Volume rose to 48,040,000 shares from Friday's New York Stock Exchange total of 47,130,000. The oil and oil service stocks led a strong market advance as institutional investors continued buying.

Experts said institutions are taking a more favourable view of the stock market which is outperforming the bond market for total return, despite high interest rates.

Silver restrictions

New York, Jan 21.—SILVER futures trading on the commodity exchange began after nearly a four-hour delay. The market was closed for the day because of a technical problem. New contracts came to 1,300,000, up from 1,200,000. The market was closed for the day because of a technical problem. New contracts came to 1,300,000, up from 1,200,000.

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BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

Stock Exchange Prices

Oils buoyant

ACCOUNT-DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 11. Dealings End, Feb 22. Contango Day, Feb 23. Settlement Day, March 3
 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

1979-80				1979-80				1979-80				1979-80				1979-80			
High	Low	Stock	Price	High	Low	Stock	Price	High	Low	Stock	Price	High	Low	Stock	Price	High	Low	Stock	Price
BRITISH FUNDS																			
100	99	British Fund	100	100	99	British Fund	100	100	99	British Fund	100	100	99	British Fund	100	100	99	British Fund	100
100	99	British Fund	100	100	99	British Fund	100	100	99	British Fund	100	100	99	British Fund	100	100	99	British Fund	100
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN																			
100	99	Commonwealth	100	100	99	Commonwealth	100	100	99	Commonwealth	100	100	99	Commonwealth	100	100	99	Commonwealth	100
100	99	Commonwealth	100	100	99	Commonwealth	100	100	99	Commonwealth	100	100	99	Commonwealth	100	100	99	Commonwealth	100
LOCAL AUTHORITIES																			
100	99	Local Authorities	100	100	99	Local Authorities	100	100	99	Local Authorities	100	100	99	Local Authorities	100	100	99	Local Authorities	100
100	99	Local Authorities	100	100	99	Local Authorities	100	100	99	Local Authorities	100	100	99	Local Authorities	100	100	99	Local Authorities	100
FOREIGN STOCKS																			
100	99	Foreign Stocks	100	100	99	Foreign Stocks	100	100	99	Foreign Stocks	100	100	99	Foreign Stocks	100	100	99	Foreign Stocks	100
100	99	Foreign Stocks	100	100	99	Foreign Stocks	100	100	99	Foreign Stocks	100	100	99	Foreign Stocks	100	100	99	Foreign Stocks	100
DOLLAR STOCKS																			
100	99	Dollar Stocks	100	100	99	Dollar Stocks	100	100	99	Dollar Stocks	100	100	99	Dollar Stocks	100	100	99	Dollar Stocks	100
100	99	Dollar Stocks	100	100	99	Dollar Stocks	100	100	99	Dollar Stocks	100	100	99	Dollar Stocks	100	100	99	Dollar Stocks	100
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS																			
100	99	Banks and Discounts	100	100	99	Banks and Discounts	100	100	99	Banks and Discounts	100	100	99	Banks and Discounts	100	100	99	Banks and Discounts	100
100	99	Banks and Discounts	100	100	99	Banks and Discounts	100	100	99	Banks and Discounts	100	100	99	Banks and Discounts	100	100	99	Banks and Discounts	100
BREWERS AND DISTILLERIES																			
100	99	Brewers and Distilleries	100	100	99	Brewers and Distilleries	100	100	99	Brewers and Distilleries	100	100	99	Brewers and Distilleries	100	100	99	Brewers and Distilleries	100
100	99	Brewers and Distilleries	100	100	99	Brewers and Distilleries	100	100	99	Brewers and Distilleries	100	100	99	Brewers and Distilleries	100	100	99	Brewers and Distilleries	100
SHIPPING																			
100	99	Shipping	100	100	99	Shipping	100	100	99	Shipping	100	100	99	Shipping	100	100	99	Shipping	100
100	99	Shipping	100	100	99	Shipping	100	100	99	Shipping	100	100	99	Shipping	100	100	99	Shipping	100
MINES																			
100	99	Mines	100	100	99	Mines	100	100	99	Mines	100	100	99	Mines	100	100	99	Mines	100
100	99	Mines	100	100	99	Mines	100	100	99	Mines	100	100	99	Mines	100	100	99	Mines	100
FINANCIAL TRUSTS																			
100	99	Financial Trusts	100	100	99	Financial Trusts	100	100	99	Financial Trusts	100	100	99	Financial Trusts	100	100	99	Financial Trusts	100
100	99	Financial Trusts	100	100	99	Financial Trusts	100	100	99	Financial Trusts	100	100	99	Financial Trusts	100	100	99	Financial Trusts	100
INSURANCE																			
100	99	Insurance	100	100	99	Insurance	100	100	99	Insurance	100	100	99	Insurance	100	100	99	Insurance	100
100	99	Insurance	100	100	99	Insurance	100	100	99	Insurance	100	100	99	Insurance	100	100	99	Insurance	100
INVESTMENT TRUSTS																			
100	99	Investment Trusts	100	100	99	Investment Trusts	100	100	99	Investment Trusts	100	100	99	Investment Trusts	100	100	99	Investment Trusts	100
100	99	Investment Trusts	100	100	99	Investment Trusts	100	100	99	Investment Trusts	100	100	99	Investment Trusts	100	100	99	Investment Trusts	100
PROPERTY																			
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RUBBER																			
100	99	Rubber	100	100	99	Rubber	100	100	99	Rubber	100	100	99	Rubber	100	100	99	Rubber	100
100	99	Rubber	100	100	99	Rubber	100	100	99	Rubber	100	100	99	Rubber	100	100	99	Rubber	100
TEA																			
100	99	Tea	100	100	99	Tea	100	100	99	Tea	100	100	99	Tea	100	100	99	Tea	100
100	99	Tea	100	100	99	Tea	100	100	99	Tea	100	100	99	Tea	100	100	99	Tea	100
MISCELLANEOUS																			
100	99	Miscellaneous	100	100	99	Miscellaneous	100	100	99	Miscellaneous	100	100	99	Miscellaneous	100	100	99	Miscellaneous	100
100	99	Miscellaneous	100	100	99	Miscellaneous	100	100	99	Miscellaneous	100	100	99	Miscellaneous	100	100	99	Miscellaneous	100

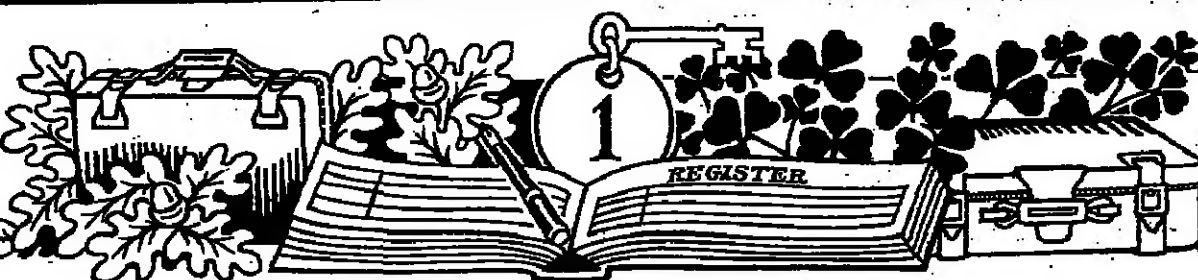
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